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NEARBY

HDK says JD (S) is 'B-team' of Kannadigas

MANGALURU/BENGALURU
A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's jibe on Janata Dal (Secular) as the "B-team of Congress", former Chief Minister and JD (S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy said that the JD (S) is the B-team of Kannadigas. » Page 4

'Enhance security on borders ahead of polls'

NEW DELHI
Ahead of next week's Assembly polls in Karnataka, the Election Commission on Monday directed for enhanced vigilance on the State's borders with a special focus on 185 inter-State checkposts across the six neighboring States. » Page 4

SC says it can end wait for consensual divorce

SC says it can use its extraordinary power under Article 142 of the Constitution to grant divorce on ground of irretrievable breakdown of marriage if separation is inevitable and damage irreparable

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday held that its extraordinary discretion under Article 142 of the Constitution can be used to do "complete justice" for couples trapped in bitter marriages by granting them divorce by mutual consent, sparing them the "misery" of waiting for six to 18 months for a local court to declare the annulment final.

A Constitution Bench, headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, observed that the same extraordinary power could be used by the court to quash pending criminal or legal proceedings, be it over domestic violence or dowry, against the man or woman. This would wipe the slate clean and help them start afresh their separate lives.

> The judgment does not mean people can rush straight to the Supreme Court for a quick divorce. It means that the Supreme Court, using great care and caution, can invoke Article 142 to deal with certain cases which come to it by way of transfer petitions or appeals in civil or criminal matrimonial disputes
> **K.V. VISHWANATHAN** senior advocate

The judgment on five petitions including the lead one filed by Shilpa Sailesh in 2014, authored by Justice Sanjiv Khanna for the Constitution Bench, further observed the way the entire law of divorce was built predominantly on "assigning fault" on one or the other partner. Such an approach fails to serve broken marriages, the court noted. "If a marriage is wrecked beyond hope of salvage, public interest lies in recognising this real fact," Justice Khanna reasoned.

Taking this logic forward, the Bench held that the Supreme Court could also use Article 142 to grant divorce on the ground of "irretrievable breakdown of marriage" if the "separation is inevitable and the damage is irreparable". The judgment is significant as irretrievable breakdown of marriage is not yet a ground for divorce under the Hindu Marriage Act.

However, the judgment cautioned that grant of divorce by the Supreme Court on the ground of irretrievable breakdown of marriage was "not a matter of right, but a discretion which is to be exercised with great care and caution". The court said the facts established must show that "the marriage has completely failed and there is no possibility that the parties will cohabit together".

CONTINUED ON
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BJP promises Uniform Civil Code in State if it is voted to power

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bharatiya Janata Party, which released its manifesto for the May 10 Assembly elections, has promised to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), apart from bringing in a National Register of Citizens (NRC), if voted to power.

The manifesto released on Monday said that if voted to power, the party would bring in the UCC "based on the recommendations of a high-level committee to be constituted for the purpose". It also promised to introduce the NRC "to ensure speedy deportation of all illegal immigrants in the State."

Among other promises, the manifesto said that it would provide three free cylinders to BPL families per year and and a 'Atal Aahara Kendra' in every ward of each municipal corporation in the State "to provide affordable, quality, and healthy food across the State".

BJP national president J.P. Nadda at a function to release the party manifesto in Bengaluru on Monday.
K. MURALI KUMAR

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 4

After Bihar, Odisha begins survey of OBC castes

The Hindu Bureau
BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha government on Monday began the survey of people from the Other Backward Classes (OBC) belonging to 210 castes in the State to determine their social and educational status, said a government official.

Odisha is the second State to conduct the survey after Bihar.

State Backward Classes Welfare Minister Jagannath Saraka said the survey will continue till May 27 with an aim to get a clear picture of the status of Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC) in Odisha.

The Odisha State Commission for Backward Classes (OSCBC) is conducting the survey across 314 blocks and 114 urban local bodies.

CONTINUED ON
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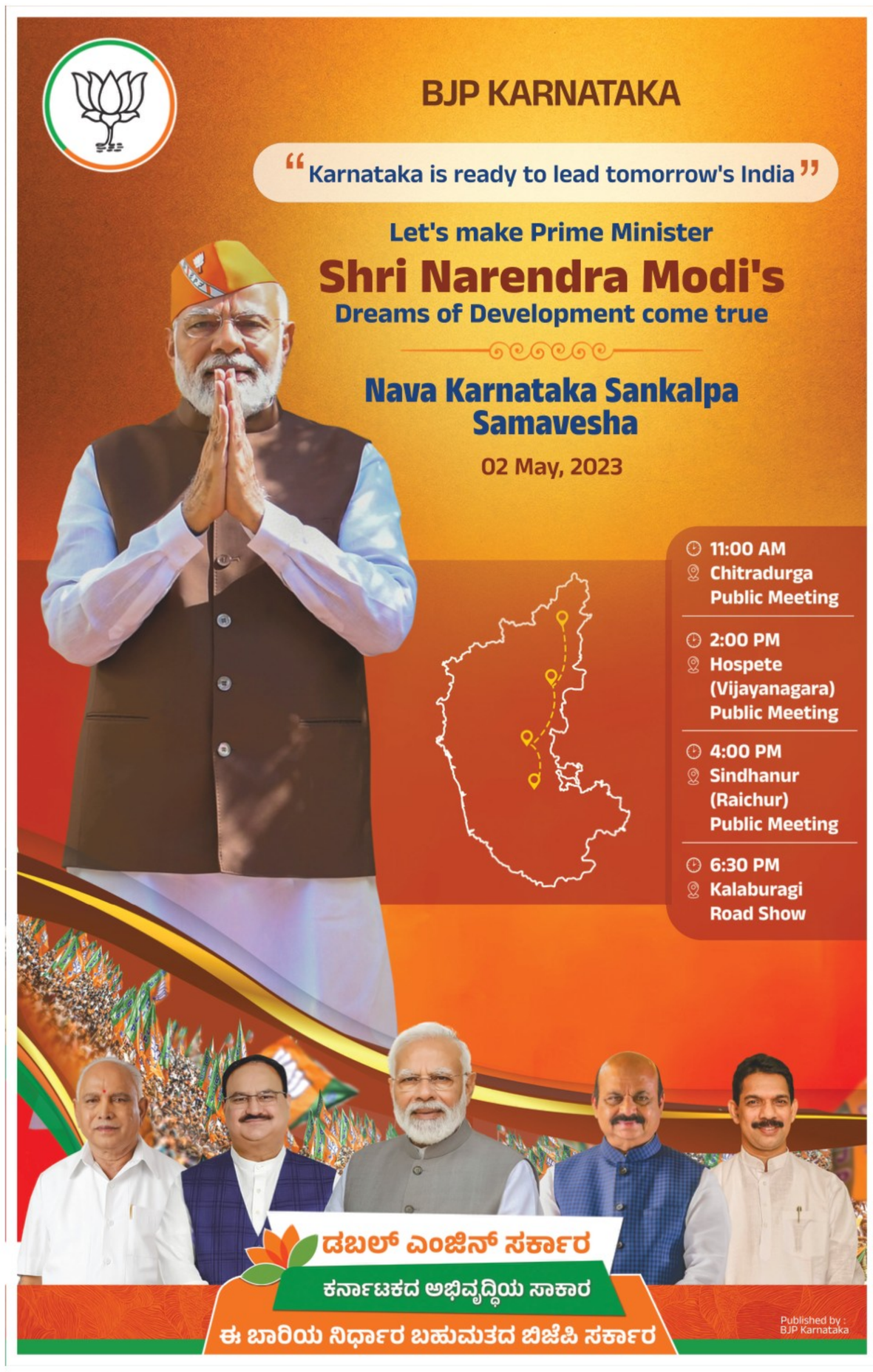

Bike hits car on Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway; three die

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Three persons were killed when their motorcycle collided with a car parked on the roadside, on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway in Ramanagara on Monday. The deceased, aged between 18 and 22, were heading towards Mysuru when the rider lost control and hit a parked car which had a flat tyre. Another car coming from behind collided with the bike, due to which the three were thrown up and fell on the road.

While two of them were killed on the spot, the third was severely injured and shifted to a hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries.

Sources in the NHAI said that a month ago, a letter was sent to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highway requesting a ban on the entry of two-wheelers on the main carriageway.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 2

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Removing concessions for senior citizens led to a rise in revenue

2,242 In ₹ crore. Between April 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023, the Indian Railways did not offer ticket concessions to almost eight crore senior citizens which included about 4.6 crore men, 3.3 crore women and 18,000 transgenders, as per an RTI reply. Railways generated ₹1,500 crore in excess between March 20, 2020 and March 31, 2022. PTI

Women register for Ladi Behna scheme of the MP government

1.25 In crore. The scheme, launched by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in March, aims to empower women socially and financially. Under the scheme, every month ₹1,000 will be credited into the bank accounts of eligible women, the CM said. The Congress also announced a provision of ₹1,500 per month for women if it comes to power. PTI

The inactive job cards under MGNREGS cancelled by Bihar

1.23 crore cards. The Bihar Rural Development Department cancelled jobs cards under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) that were inactive for several years, according to Rural Development Minister Shrawan Kumar. Many cards were found to be fake or were not linked with Aadhaar numbers. PTI

The accounts banned by Meta-owned Whatsapp in March

4.7 In million. In February, 4.5 million accounts were banned by the social media platform. The platform disclosed it complied with all three orders received from the newly-constituted Grievance Appellate Committee, between March 1-31, 2023. Around 16.59 lakh of these accounts were proactively banned, before any reports from users, the report said. PTI

The people who fled from Sudan to Central African Republic

6,000 OCHA, the UN agency, informed that 70% of the refugees fleeing Sudan to the neighbouring Central African Republic were women, 15% were girls and 10% were men. The war has so far killed at least 528 people, with at least 4,599 wounded, according to official figures. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Widening the scope: The amendment can be seen as part of the policy shift that now emphasises the dual importance of "development and security". GETTY IMAGES

China's amended anti-espionage law

The amendments come amid a string of high-profile cases involving journalists, foreign executives, as well as international companies in China, who have come under the lens of authorities on national security grounds. The idea behind the legislation is "to prevent, stop and punish espionage conduct and maintain national security."

EXPLAINER

Ananth Krishnan

The story so far:

On April 26, China's legislature approved sweeping amendments to China's anti-espionage law, broadening the scope of what may be defined as activities related to spying and national security. The amendments come amid a string of high-profile cases involving journalists, foreign executives, as well as international companies in China, who have come under the lens of authorities on national security grounds. The expanded law follows the Xi Jinping government's increasing focus on "security" and a recent policy shift that now emphasises the dual importance of "development and security", rather than a focus solely on economic development.

What is China's anti-espionage law?

The recent amendments are to China's 2014 anti-espionage law. Article 1 of the law says the idea behind the legislation is "to prevent, stop and punish espionage conduct and maintain national security." The broad ambit of what constitutes "national security" as well as the law's focus on involving a "whole of society" approach to counter-espionage, including from Chinese enterprises and organisations, evoked concerns among both rights groups and foreign enterprises in China.

Foreign governments are especially concerned whether Chinese companies, particularly in the tech sector, would be mandated to offer their vast amounts of data to the authorities. For instance, one article of the law mandates that "all State organs, armed forces, political parties and public groups, and all enterprises and organisations, have the obligation to prevent and stop espionage activities and maintain national security."

Another article encourages ordinary citizens to take part in national anti-espionage efforts by reporting to the authorities any activity deemed to be suspicious and endangering national security.

The latest amendments are the first changes since 2014, and will take effect on July 1, 2023. They have further broadened the law's scope, with one of the changes declaring that "all documents, data, materials, and items related to national security and interests" will be protected on par with what are deemed state secrets.

The definition of espionage has also been expanded to include cyber attacks. Essentially, the transfer of any information deemed by authorities to be in the interest of what they define to be "national security" will now be considered an act of espionage.

What prompted the changes?

Zang Tiewei, spokesperson for China's National People's Congress (NPC), the ceremonial Communist Party-controlled legislature, said the latest change "improves the regulations on cyber espionage" and "clearly defines cyberattacks, intrusions, interference, control and destruction" as espionage. Other changes, he said, would include "clarifying the responsibility of national security organs in guiding and arranging publicity as well as provisions to strengthen the protection of personal information in counter-espionage work."

The amendments have also coincided with a number of recent high-profile cases which observers have seen to reflect a broadening scope for "anti-espionage" activities as well as widening definitions of "national security".

Only days before the amendments were approved, the family of a senior Chinese newspaper editor, Dong Yuyu, said he had been arrested almost a year ago while meeting with a Japanese diplomat and for his contacts with the Americans and Japanese. He has been accused of spying.

The cases of two other journalists have also drawn wide attention. In June last year, *Bloomberg News* reported that a journalist at its Beijing bureau, Haze Fan, had been released on bail pending trial in January 2022, citing a statement from the Chinese Embassy in the U.S., but it had not been able to contact her. Cheng Lei, an Australian reporter and television anchor with the State run English-language channel *China Global Television Network* (CGTN), was in 2020 detained and accused of carrying out activities "endangering national security". Till date, no details have been made public on both their cases. However, it isn't only journalists who are under the lens of the authorities.

During the end of March, a prominent figure in the Japanese business community in China and an executive at Asellas Pharma, Hiroshi Nishiyama, was detained and accused of espionage. So far, little detail has also been provided on his case, in keeping with cases involving "national security".

What will be the impact of the amended law?

The amended law is likely to have a chilling impact both within China and beyond. Chinese journalists, academics and executives who frequently engage with foreign counterparts are likely to think twice before doing so, at least without explicit government sanction, particularly in the wake of the arrest of Dong Yuyu. Unrestricted engagement between Chinese and foreign scholars, which has already become limited in the Xi Jinping era, is likely to become even rarer.

Foreign enterprises are also likely to be concerned following recent reported investigations by Chinese authorities on the U.S. consulting firm Bain & Company and a raid on the American due diligence company Mintz Group.

Indian companies with a presence in China, particularly in sectors deemed to be sensitive such as pharma and IT, will likely need to review their exposure to risks under the expanded law and broadened definitions of "national security", particularly amid deteriorating relations between the neighbours.

Chinese State media have, however, sought to push back against suggestions that the law signals a chilling in China's business environment.

The Communist Party-run *Global Times* in a recent commentary hit out at Japanese media for suggesting this was the case following the arrest of the Astellas executive, saying it was "a far-fetched slander that twists the facts."

The newspaper quoted the Chinese Foreign Ministry as saying, in the wake of the case, that "as long as one operates within the law, there is nothing to worry about." The concern for many companies, however, is that the law doesn't spell out what may or may not be a "national security" issue.

The *Global Times* argued that "an increasing number of espionage cases against China have been found" since 2014, requiring the amendments. "This fully demonstrates the necessity and urgency for China to update its anti-espionage law to protect its national security. No one is in the position to criticise China's legitimate actions," the newspaper said, "and no one has the right to use this to throw mud at China's business environment."

THE GIST

- On April 26, China's legislature approved sweeping amendments to China's anti-espionage law, broadening the scope of what may be defined as activities related to spying and national security.
- The broad ambit of what constitutes "national security" as well as the law's focus on involving a "whole of society" approach to counter-espionage, evoked concerns among both rights groups and foreign enterprises in China.
- The amendments have coincided with a number of recent high-profile cases which observers have seen to reflect a broadening scope for "anti-espionage" activities as well as widening definitions of "national security".

Three killed on Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway

According to the police, the bike was speeding and the driver lost control, and collided with a car parked on the side of the road

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Three persons were killed when their motorcycle collided with a car parked on the side of the road, on the Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway near Jayapura Gate in Ramanagara on Monday.

The deceased have been identified as Hussain, Rahman, and Roshan, aged 18 to 22 and fabricators by profession. The trio were heading towards Mysuru when the accident occurred in the afternoon.

According to the police, the bike was speeding and the driver lost control, and collided with the car that was parked owing to a deflated tyre.

Meanwhile, another car coming from behind collided with the bike. Due to the impact, the trio were thrown up and fell on the road.

While two of them were killed on the spot, the third person was severely injured and shifted to a hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries.

A file photo of the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway.

The Ramanagara traffic police have taken up a case of rash and negligent driving against the bike rider and have also booked the car driver.

Only recently, five members of a family were killed in Channapatna in a head-on collusion of two cars on the expressway.

The police blamed the accidents on rash and negligent driving of vehicles on the expressway and haphazard changing of tracks with different speed limits.

Sources in the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) said that a month ago, a letter was sent to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highway requesting it to ban the entry of two-wheelers on the main carriageway.

"To avoid accidents, there is a need to impose a ban on movement on the main carriageway. We will act as per the directions of the higher-ups on prohibiting entry of two-wheelers on main lanes. They can use the service roads on either side of the carriageway. At present, what is happening is many two-wheeler riders are not following lane discipline. There is also a need for the police and the RTOs to carry out enforcement of drives," said an official.

Techie claims he and family attacked on Suranjan Das Road

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A senior police officer when approached said that he was not aware of the incident

A city-based engineer and his family alleged that they faced a harrowing experience, after two bike-borne men attacked their car on Suranjan Das Road during the day on Saturday.

The victim, Neelesh Salgaonkar, a software engineer, was travelling with his wife and daughter from HSR Layout to Old Madras Road when the incident occurred. The police allegedly did not help them when they approached the traffic police and the police control room.

Mr. Salgaonkar shared his ordeal on social media tagging the city police, which went viral.

Narrating his experience, he said that on their way, a motorcycle rider appeared and asked them to stop, and tried to intercept the car. Sensing trouble, Mr. Salgaonkar accelerated, but the driver followed them, along with another man on a motorcycle, forcing them to stop.

Mr. Salgaonkar then put the car in reverse and moved away, while his wife dialled 100, but couldn't reach the police. The road was also relatively deserted at the time. As they began to drive away, the two motorists began banging their helmets on the car windows. They chased the car till BEML Circle, Mr. Salgaonkar said in his complaint on social media.

The two fled when they saw traffic policemen at BEML Circle. The family spoke to the traffic police and they asked them to go to the Jeevan Bima Nagar police station. As the family was scared to go back on the same road to reach the station, they parked the car and took an autorickshaw.

According to Mr. Salgaonkar, they reached the station and the police officials heard them and accompanied them to the spot, and after examination asked them to go to the Baiyappanahalli station as the area falls under its jurisdiction. Mr. Salgaonkar said that the family was terrified and exhausted and returned home without filing a complaint.

Though the post has gone viral, the police are yet to take action. A senior police officer when approached said that he was not aware of the incident.

We are one

Members of CITU and other organisations during the May Day celebrations at Freedom Park on Monday.
SUDHAKARA JAIN

City records 24.8 mm of rain

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The city received rain on Monday evening lasting for a few hours. The India Meteorological Department (IMD), which had forecast heavy rains in isolated places over Bengaluru Rural and Bengaluru Urban, said that the city recorded 24.8mm. "On May 1, there will be light to moderate rain but in one or two places it may be heavy," said A. Prasad, scientist, IMD Bengaluru. "It is quite normal for Bengaluru to receive rains during this time of the year. Last year we also had rains," he added.

Mr. Prasad attributed the rain to trough wind discontinuity.

"The trough is triggering this rainfall and wind discontinuity is also quite common during this time. When we have two anticyclones, one in the Bay of Bengal and another in the Arabian Sea, there will be wind discontinuity which is also known as moisture discontinuity. Whenever the wind discontinuity is there because of heating, thunderstorm activity will also be there in one or two places and they may be heavy," said Mr. Prasad.

The IMD also said that heavy rain is likely to occur at isolated places over Bengaluru Rural, Bengaluru Urban, Chickballapur, Kolar, Chamarajanagara, Mandya, Mysuru, and the districts of South-interior Karnataka during the next 24 hours.

Gandhi Bazaar bandh today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Shopkeepers and business establishments of Gandhi Bazaar have called for a voluntary bandh on Tuesday in protest against, what they have called, "user unfriendly" road works. The bandh call coming ahead of the Assembly polls has gained significance.

There has been widespread opposition against the ongoing road works in the area. These include redeveloping the road as a concrete road, a multi-level car parking, and a proposal to pedestrianise a part of the road.

However, the government has gone ahead with the proposal and works are under way, and the road has practically been closed for over six months now.

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, MAY. 02
RISE 05:59 SET 18:35
RISE 15:51 SET 03:35

WEDNESDAY, MAY. 03
RISE 05:58 SET 18:35
RISE 16:38 SET 04:11

THURSDAY, MAY. 04
RISE 05:58 SET 18:35
RISE 17:29 SET 04:48

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	25
Mysuru	34	22
Bengaluru	32	23

Bengaluru Today
30°C The weather will be slight warm and humid. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
31°C Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm and humid. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

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THE HINDU
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Karnataka elections: It's a straight fight in these neighbouring constituencies

KEY CONSTITUENCY

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

The neighbouring Assembly constituencies of Vijayanagar and Govindarajnagar, which are separated by the Chord Road passing through Vijayanagar, are witnessing contrasting pictures in terms of development and personalities as main contenders in polls.

Sandwiched between two arterial roads - Magadi Chord Road and Vijayanagar Chord Road - the Govindarajnagar constituency is a mixed bag of voters.

More development

Represented by the ruling BJP, this segment with Minister V. Somanna as MLA, has seen over the years relatively more development. Renovated parks with gym equipment, walking paths, indoor shuttle grounds, a dozen of hospitals are among the major features in the constituency. Close to ₹1,000 crore had been spent on development in the constituency, claimed B.H. Veeresh, trustee of Mahiti Hakku Adhyayana Kendra, Vijayanagar.

The Vijayanagar constituency is represented by M. Krishnappa, popularly known as 'Layout Krishnappa', one of the richest candidates in the State. Development works in the constituency have relatively remained stagnant.

The construction work for the underground market, on the lines of Palika Bazar in Delhi, has been moving at a snail's pace for close to a decade.

The Vrishabhavathi and its tributaries are seen as "a nuisance" by the residents of localities, considering that they have turned into sewage drains and lead to flooding. The BJP here has been claiming credit for development works, such as construction of KSRTC bus-terminal on Mysore Road.

The constituency has many religious places, including the Adichunchanagiri Math, Maruthi Mandira, and Gali Anjaneya temple.

Straight fight

Both constituencies are likely to witness a straight contest between the ruling BJP and the Congress.

Mr. Somanna (BJP), five-time MLA, has been moved out and he is contesting from Varuna and Chamarajanagar.

The BJP has fielded at Govindarajnagar two-time BBMP councillor K. Umesh Shetty. Mr. Shetty, hails from Udupi and was elected to the BBMP council from Govindarajnagar in 2015. Closely identified with Hindutva organisations, Mr. Shetty has developed a network among the people in the area. The strong presence of the RSS and the BJP at the booth level is expected to help him reaching out to voters.

The Congress nominee and two-time MLA Priya Krishna, son of Mr. Krishnappa, apparently has been less "visible" in the constituency.

The JD(S) fielded R. Prakash who belongs to the Vokkaliga community. Mr. Prakash, who began campaigning ahead of others, now has gone silent. It is alleged by some that the JD (S) is not serious about the contest and has fielded the candidate with the objective of supporting Mr. Krishna, who belongs to the same community.

The constituency comprises voters from different classes - industrial workers to white-collar professionals. There are a large number of voters hailing from three coastal districts of Karnataka and North India. The Vokkaliga and Kuruba community too have a sizable vote bank.

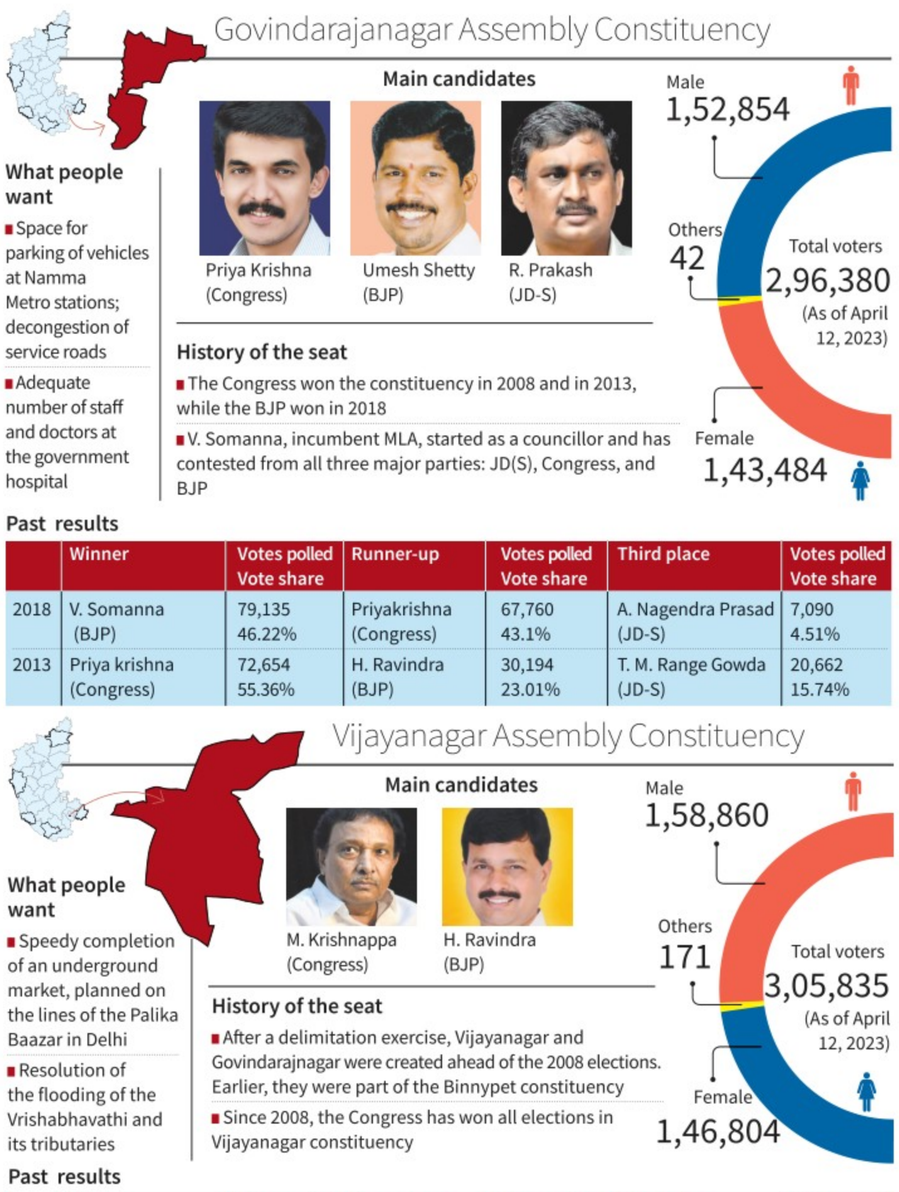
Two local residents

In Vijayanagar constituency, H. Ravindra (BJP) is taking on Mr. Krishnappa. Both are residents of Vijayanagar and both belong to the Vokkaliga community. The JD(S) did not field its candidate here.

Mr. Krishnappa, who has been elected thrice since 2008, may have to contend with anti-incumbency. Mr. Ravindra, who had lost twice, is expected to benefit from the sympathy factor.

"This time Vijayanagar is going to witness a photo finish" says Mr. Veeresh. Mr. Ravindra lost by a narrow margin of 2,775 votes in 2018.

The constituency is dominated by the Vokkaliga community and it has nearly 80,000 votes, as per estimates that the parties go with, while there are close to 40,000 and 20,000 votes, respectively, belonging to Kuruba and Veerashaiva-Lingayat communities. The Muslims have a sizable number of votes, say party sources.



Past results

	Winner	Votes polled Vote share	Runner-up	Votes polled Vote share	Third place	Votes polled Vote share
2018	V. Somanna (BJP)	79,135 46.22%	Priyakrishna (Congress)	67,760 43.1%	A. Nagendra Prasad (JD-S)	7,090 4.51%
2013	Priya krishna (Congress)	72,654 55.36%	H. Ravindra (BJP)	30,194 23.01%	T. M. Range Gowda (JD-S)	20,662 15.74%

Past results

	Winner	Votes polled Vote share	Runner-up	Votes polled Vote share	Third place	Votes polled Vote share
2018	M. Krishnappa (Congress)	73,353 46.9%	H. Ravindra (BJP)	70,578 45.13%	Paramashiva N .E (JD-S)	8,174 5.23%
2013	M. Krishnappa (Congress)	76,891 57.73%	V. Somanna (BJP)	44,249 33.22%	B. S. Kanyakumari (JD-S)	4,253 3.19%

Traffic arrangements for VVIP movement

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Traffic arrangements have been made for roads in the CBD area owing to VVIP movement on Tuesday. Motorists have been advised to use alternative roads to avoid congestion between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Some changes

Vehicles coming from Dr. H. Marigowda Road towards Madiwala checkpost will be diverted at Dairy Circle and they must take right turn and move towards Bannerghatta Road .

Vehicles from Hosur towards Bengaluru city will be diverted at Konappana Agrahara junction and are required to take left turn and move towards NICE Road then reach Bannerghatta Road or Kanakapura Road.

FIR filed after fake recruitment ad posted on police website

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central Division cyber crime police on Saturday registered a case against an unknown person for putting up a fake recruitment ad on the official website of the State Police Department.

Based on a complaint by Brijesh Mathew, a senior officer from the CID head office at Carlton Bhavan, the cyber crime police have begun a probe to track down the accused, based on the phone number mentioned in the link to seek the application fee through UPI.

The fraud came to light during a random check on Saturday when a recruitment division official noticed a link on the official website, advertising the recruitment of 25 technical staff post vacancies on the KSP Recruitment-Technical Staff Vacancies page.

Application fee

The advertisement asked for ₹2,000 application fee to be paid on a QR code mentioned in the advertisement along with the phone number .

The department has not advertised any postings and someone has misused the website to cheat people, Mr. Mathew said in his complaint.

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PULSE-CHECK

ISTOCKPHOTO

The ever expanding medicinal uses and properties of psychedelic substances

Psychedelic drugs, banned in India under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, are emerging in research as promising ways to treat treatment-resistant depression and post-traumatic stress disorder

Alok Kulkarni

Psychedelics are a group of drugs that alter perception, mood, and thought-processing while a person is still clearly conscious. Usually, the person's insight also remains unimpaired. Psychedelics are non-addictive, non-toxic and compared to illicit drugs, they are less harmful to the end user. In India, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act 1985 prohibits the use of psychedelic substances. Ketamine, a dissociative anaesthetic with psychedelic properties, is used under strict medical supervision, for anaesthesia and treatment-resistant depression.

What is the history of psychedelics?
A psychiatrist named Humphrey Osmond first used the term 'psychedelic' in 1957. The word is derived from the Greek words *psyche*, meaning 'mind', and *deloun*, meaning 'to manifest'. Humans have used psilocybin and mescaline for ceremonies, healing, and spiritual rituals for millennia. Temples built for mushroom 'deities' in indigenous cultures in Mexico and Guatemala date back to 7000 BC. Records of the Greek 'Eleusinian Mysteries' indicate that psychedelics were used in ceremonial rituals.

The modern-day use of psychedelics is commonly associated with the German chemist Arthur Heffter isolating mescaline from the peyote cactus in 1897. In 1938, while investigating compounds related to ergotamine (one of the ergot alkaloids), the Swiss chemist Albert Hofmann first synthesised LSD. When Hofmann accidentally contaminated himself with a small dose of LSD, he experienced what was likely the world's first 'acid trip'. On a hunch, he resynthesised LSD in 1943 and, with further testing, found LSD to be extremely potent and physiologically relatively safe.

Between 1947 and 1967, LSD was widely used as a therapeutic catalyst in psychotherapy. The Harvard Psilocybin Project, founded by psychologist Timothy Leary, further proselytised LSD and psilocybin which led to the increasing recreational use of these substances. Around this time, medical concerns and the Vietnam War prompted the conservative Richard Nixon administration to criminalise the use of psychedelics and other psychoactive drugs. This "war on drugs" stopped all medical use and pushed recreational use underground. Media campaigns in the 1960s and 1970s further stigmatised the use of all psychoactive drugs.

How do the drugs work in the body?
Users of psychedelic substances report changes in perception, somatic experience, mood, thought-processing, and entheogenic experiences. Perceptual distortions most commonly include the visual domain. An intriguing phenomenon called synaesthesia may occur, where the sensory modalities cross and the user may 'hear colour' or 'see sounds'.

About half of the ingested psilocybin is absorbed via the digestive tract. In the body, psilocybin is converted to psilocin, which is then metabolised in the liver. LSD is completely absorbed in the digestive tract and then metabolised in the liver. Classical psychedelics boost brain serotonin levels. Psilocybin's therapeutic effects require a 'trip' that is mediated by the activation of serotonin receptors. A recent case report published in the *American Journal of Psychiatry* demonstrated that robust and sustained antidepressant effects can occur even in the absence of psilocybin's psychedelic effects. This finding, if replicated in larger trials, will have major implications for people with treatment-resistant depression. They can then get better without having to endure a trip.

Modern neuroimaging suggests that psychedelics are neither stimulants nor depressants of brain activity. Instead, they increase the cross-talk between different brain networks, and this correlates with the subjective effects of psychedelics.

Can such substances cause harm?
Death due to direct toxicity of LSD, psilocybin or mescaline has not been reported despite 50-plus years of recreational use. An overdose requires cardiac monitoring and supportive management in a low-stimulus and reassuring environment.

Synthetic psychedelics (such as 25I-NBOMe) have been associated with acute cardiac, central nervous system, and limb ischaemia, as well as serotonin syndrome. There have also been reports of death attributed directly to synthetic psychedelic use.

The psychological effects of psychedelics depend on the interaction between the drug and the user's mindset (together called a set), and the environmental setting. People with a personal or family history of psychosis are strongly discouraged from experimenting with psychedelics.

There is also no evidence that psychedelics cause physiological or psychological dependence – nor has any withdrawal syndrome been identified. Tension headaches are common in the 24 hours after use and are offset by the use of simple analgesics. This said, brief and self-limiting psychotic episodes can occur when a user is intoxicated with psychedelics, particularly LSD. They are more common among first-time users and among those with a personal or family history of psychiatric illness. Users describe these experiences as a 'bad trip' and they are more likely to occur in unfavourable environments.

Can psychedelics be used to treat neuropsychiatric disorders?
In November 2022, the results from a phase II psilocybin trial were published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. The trial found that a single 25-mg dose of psilocybin reduced depression scores over three weeks in people with treatment-resistant depression. Adverse events included headache, nausea, and dizziness which occurred in 77% of the participants. Suicidal ideation, suicidal behaviour, and self-injury occurred in all dose groups (1 mg, 10 mg, and 25 mg).

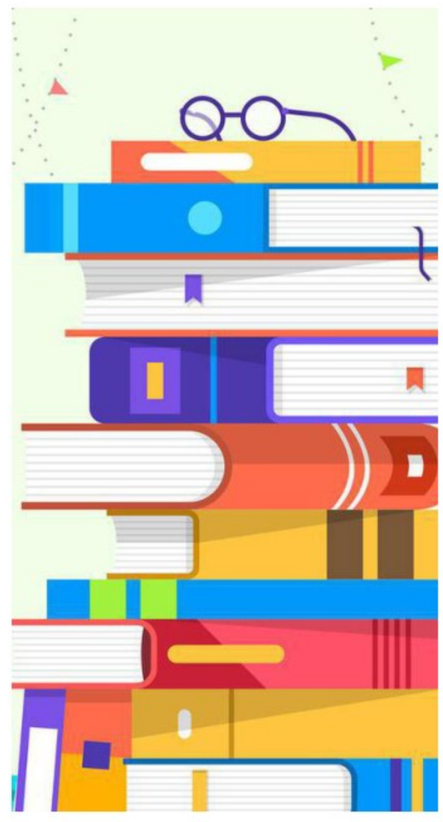
In 2017, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) designated the use of 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine, also known as MDMA, to be the "breakthrough therapy" in the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Under its "expanded access" program, the FDA has allowed a small number of people – particularly those seriously ill with PTSD and who haven't responded to other treatment – to use MDMA.

Recently, the U.S. non-profit Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS) also announced positive results from its observational study on MDMA-assisted therapy for patients with PTSD, echoing the findings of its phase-III MDMA trial, published in *Nature Medicine* in May 2021. In 2018, the FDA had granted "breakthrough therapy" status to psilocybin for treatment-resistant depression as well.

What does this mean for the use of psychedelics?
Although recent findings are encouraging, there remains uncertainty about where the psychedelic renaissance will take us. Psychedelic substances provide an intriguing avenue through which one can probe the broader constructs of creativity, spirituality, and consciousness, aside from their therapeutic effects.

While not a panacea, psychedelic substances have certainly reinvigorated clinical and research interests, and have added to psychiatry's ever-expanding therapeutic armamentarium. If larger phase III trials establish their safety and therapeutic efficacy, the FDA and other regulatory bodies may clear these agents for routine clinical use.

Dr. Alok Kulkarni is a senior geriatric psychiatrist and neurophysician at the Manas Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Hubli.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Mr. M. Hari Babu, E 9/1, Main Camp, ETPS, Madras, wants to know the meaning of the sentence, 'I ran into another Indian at the hotel.'"

" 'To run into' in this context means 'to meet, encounter'. You use this when the meeting is accidental, unexpected. 'I ran into another Indian at the hotel' means I met another Indian at the hotel unexpectedly.'

I ran into an old classmate of mine.

'Run into' also means 'to collide with'.

The car ran into a tree.

The scooter ran into a lorry.

The other meaning is 'to fall into'.

The company ran into debt.

We ran into difficulties.

Another meaning is 'to mount up to', 'to reach'.

His annual income runs into seven figures.

His book has run into several editions."

"Mr. M. E. Ethiraj, 243/1718,27 Cross, R Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore, wants to know the meaning of 'shot in the arm'."

" 'Shot in the arm' means 'stimulus', 'boost', 'encouragement'.

The government should give the sagging economy a shot in the arm.

It is time Doordarshan was given a shot in the arm.

With his joining, the party has been given a shot in the arm.

The expression refers to the practice of taking a 'shot' for a stimulating or revitalising effect. 'Shot' here means 'a small amount of liquor' or 'a hypodermic injection of some drug'. A hypodermic injection is an injection that is given beneath the skin."

"Mr. A. Venkataramappa of Madras wants to know the meaning of 'tentative'."

" 'Tentative' means 'offered or arrived at as a first step', 'not final'.

Mine is a tentative suggestion.

It was a tentative offer.

'Provisional' also means 'of the present time only, and to be confirmed or changed later'. A provisional government, a provisional contract. But 'provisional' is more 'positive' than 'tentative'. A provisional plan has greater chance of adoption than a tentative plan."

"Ms. Renuka Subramaniam, 89, Greenfields, Ootacamund, wants to know the pronunciation of 'ail' and 'ale'."

"They are pronounced in the same way. 'ai' and 'a' are pronounced like the 'a' in 'take', 'make'. 'Ail' and 'ale' rhyme with tail'; 'ai' and 'a' are pronounced in the same way in the following pairs: mail, male; tail, tale: hail, hale; bail, bale; sail, sale; pail, pale."

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Here is another quiz on Satyajit Ray and his works on his 102nd birth anniversary

Srinivasan Ramani

QUESTION 1
Before his directed film, *Teen Kanya* (released in 1961), Ray utilised the works of three musical maestros in his films — Pandit Ravi Shankar for the *Apu Trilogy* and Parash Pathar, Ali Akbar Khan for *Devi* and an accomplished sitarist for the brilliant *Jalsaghar*. Name the sitarist.

QUESTION 2
Name the accomplished cinematographer who collaborated with Satyajit Ray for all of his earlier films until *Nayak* (made in 1966).

QUESTION 3
Which contemporary film great had this quote on Ray — "Not to have seen the cinema of Ray means existing in the world without seeing the sun or the moon"?

QUESTION 4
One of Ray's most memorable films, based on his own popular writing, is *Jai Baba Felunath* (The Elephant God). One of the inimitable quotes in this film includes the answer, "33 crores" by Feluda to a question by Jatayu about Banaras. What was the question?

QUESTION 5
Two films made by Satyajit Ray were based on works by Munshi Premchand. One was the classic *Shatranj ke Khilari*. Name the other film, made in 1981 and a searing account of the caste system.

Visual question:
Name the short film by Ray, which is an allegory on the Vietnam War, which features this scene.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The two famous personalities who attempted to make a movie of Kalki's book *Ponniyin Selvan.* **Ans: M.G. Ramachandran and Kamal Hassan**
2. Kalki travelled to this country to research for *Ponniyin Selvan.* **Ans: Sri Lanka**
3. The character of Azhwarkadiyan Nambi in the novel is representative of this particular conflict that sometimes disrupted harmony in the Tamil Nadu of yore. **Ans: The Saivaite – Vaisnavite conflict**
4. "There was constant war between A and B. They fought using verbal arrows and sharp, spear-like looks." Name A and B. **Ans: Pazhuvoor Illaya Rani (or Nandini) and Pazhayarai Piratti (Kundavai)**
5. In 1998, the Tamil Nadu government made this move which meant much for Kalki's works, including Ponniyin Selvan. **Ans: Kalki's works were nationalised, removing its copyright. Multiple publishers rushed to accommodate *Ponniyin Selvan* in their catalogue.**
Visual question: This person was involved in the *Ponniyin Selvan* serialisation in the 1950s. **Ans: Illustrator Maniam**
Early Bird: Parikshit Chauhan

Word of the day

Curio:
something unusual — perhaps worthy of collecting

Synonyms: oddity, oddment, rarity, peculiarity, curiosity

Usage: *I love going to antique shops. They are filled with interesting curios.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/curiopro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈkjʊəɹiəʊ/, /ˈkjɜːɹiəʊ/, /ˈkjɔːɹiəʊ/

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MRUNAL S. VAIRAGADE
Classroom Course
Overall 100 Percentile

AIR 4 — 300/300
MALAY KEDIA
Classroom Course
Overall 100 Percentile

AIR 5 — 300/300
KAUSHAL VIJAYVERGIYA
Classroom Course
Overall 100 Percentile

34 STUDENTS IN TOP 100 ALL INDIA RANKS
Highest among all Institutes

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AIR 12 — Deshank P. Singh — Classroom — Overall 100 Percentile
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AIR 18 — Abhineet Majety — Distance — Overall 100 Percentile
AIR 20 — Raghav Goyal — Classroom — Overall 100 Percentile
AIR 22 — Tanish S. Khurana — Classroom — Overall 100 Percentile
AIR 23 — Ridhi Maheshwari — Classroom — ALL INDIA GIRL TOPPER — Overall 100 Percentile
AIR 26 — Soham Das — Classroom — Overall 100 Percentile
AIR 31 — Krish Gupta — Classroom — Overall 100 Percentile
AIR 32 — Rohit V. Somani — Classroom — Overall 100 Percentile
AIR 33 — Dnyanesh H. Shinde — Classroom — Overall 100 Percentile
AIR 34 — Mayank Soni — Digital-OLTS — Overall 100 Percentile
AIR 35 — Nived A. Nambiar — Classroom — Overall 100 Percentile
AIR 36 — Nischay V. Agarwal — Classroom — Overall 100 Percentile

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KARNATAKA STATE TOPPER

AIR 22 — Overall 100 Percentile
Tanish S Khurana
4 Year Classroom

AIR 23 — Overall 100 Percentile
Ridhi Maheshwari
2 Year Classroom

AIR 35 — Overall 100 Percentile
Nived A Nambiar
5 Year Classroom

AIR 93
Rishith Gupta
3 Year Classroom

- 14 Students Secured **100%ile** in **Physics**
- 05 Students Secured **100%ile** in **Chemistry**
- 05 Students Secured **100%ile** in **Maths**
- 03 Students Secured Overall **100%ile**
- 04 Students in **Top 100** All India Rank
- 17 Students in **Top 500** All India Rank
- 28 Students in **Top 1000** All India Rank

3 Out of 3 Karnataka State Toppers are from ALLEN Bengaluru

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NEET (UG) | 04 & 29 May '23
Admission Mode : Direct / ASAT / TALLENTEX

Class starting dates
for 11th to 12th moving students
ENTHUSIAST COURSE
JEE (Main + Adv) | 04 May '23
NEET (UG) | 04 May '23
Admission Mode : Direct

Class starting dates
for 12th Pass/Appearing/ Ex-Allen students
LEADER COURSE
JEE (Main + Adv) | 04 May , 08 & 22 June'23
NEET (UG) | 15 & 29 May , 15 & 26 June '23
Admission Mode : ASAT / Direct
Special Fee Benefit for Repeater Courses

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A BG-BGE

BJP promises free gas cylinders, half litre milk to BPL families

The party, which is keen to beat the historical trend of no ruling dispensation getting re-elected in the last 38 years, has also promised to set up *Atal Aahara Kendras;* the manifesto titled 'Praja Pranalike' offers 103 poll promises

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Ahead of the May 10 elections to the Karnataka Assembly, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party on Monday made a poll promise of providing three free cooking gas cylinders to BPL families annually, each during the festivals of Ugadi, Ganesha Chaturthi, and Deepavali.

The BJP, which is keen to beat the historical trend of no ruling party getting re-elected in the last 38 years, has also promised to set up *Atal Aahara Kendra* in every ward of municipal corporations to provide affordable and quality food. This is reminiscent of Indira Canteen started by the previous Congress regime led by Siddaramaiah. This is in addition to the promise of launching *Poshane* scheme of providing half litre of free Nandini milk a day to BPL families besides five kg of millets a month along with the regular ration kits.

These three major promises are part of the BJP's poll manifesto that was released by BJP national president J.P. Nadda along

BJP national president J.P. Nadda; former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa; party State unit president Nalin Kumar Kateel; Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, State Election Management Committee convener and Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje releasing the party manifesto ahead of the Assembly elections, in Bengaluru on Monday. K. MURALI KUMAR

with all the prominent State leaders, including Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and party Parliamentary Board Member B.S. Yediyurappa. The manifesto titled as Praja Pranalike (people's manifesto), which was drafted by a committee led by Health Minister K. Sudhakar, offers 103 poll promises, including 16 prominent ones.

10 lakh jobs promised

The manifesto has made an ambitious promise of creating 10 lakh jobs in manufacturing sector and building metro train network in Mysuru, Hubballi-Dharwad and Belagavi.

In a bid to capitalise on the growing interest in EVs, the manifesto has promised to turn the State into a premier hub for EVs through measures like creating EV charging stations across the State, developing an EV city in Bengaluru city outskirts, exempting registration fee and road tax for EVs, developing a Formula e-Circuit, incentivising 1,000 startups in EV sector and upgrading all the BMTC buses into electric buses.

A look at the poll promises indicates that the party has made efforts to woo people from different walks of life especially the middle class, farmers and youth besides the BPL families. In the health sector, the manifesto promises to setup Namma Clinics equipped with diagnostic facilities in every ward of every municipal corporation. This was also a budget promise. It has promised to provide a free annual master health check-up with affordable diagnostics for all senior citizens.

The poll promises in agriculture include increasing the incentive to milk farmers from the present ₹5 to ₹7 a litre, setting up 1,000 FPOs including 200 fishery FPOs in the next five years.

It has also promised to complete all the pending major irrigation projects in a time-bound manner.

It has also promised to set up micro cold storage facilities along the lines of the KMF's milk procurement model and agri processing units at all village panchayats through PPP model under the Krishika Bandhu scheme and establishment of five new agro industry clusters and three new food processing parks.

Focus on millets

In a bid to attract millet farmers, the manifesto has promised to increase subsidies for millet cultivation from the present ₹10,000 to ₹15,000 a hectare and set up five modern millet processing units besides providing State branding for ragi and jowar.

BJP for implementation of Uniform Civil Code in State

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BJP's manifesto for the Karnataka Assembly elections released on Monday has tried to come out with promises that relate to its core ideological base.

Prominent among them are implementing of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the State based on the recommendations by a high-level committee which will be constituted if the party is voted to power.

The manifesto has promised to introduce National Register of Citizens in Karnataka and ensure speedy deportation of all illegal immigrants in the State. It may be noted that the BJP leaders have been raising issues related to illegal immigrants repeatedly.

In addition to this, the manifesto has also promised to create a special wing in the State police, "Karnataka - State Wing Against Religious Fundamentalism and Terror (K-SWIFT)." This is being viewed as an effort to woo young party cadre in the context of some among them expressing anguish against the party's government last year in the wake of murders of party functionaries, allegedly due to ideological conflict.

The party has claimed, "Through this vision document (manifesto) we aim to restore the glory and prosperity of Karnataka akin to its glorious days under the erstwhile Vijayanagara empire by strengthening its pillars of progress - economic strength, social cohesiveness, cultural and civilizational growth, protection of mother nature and nationalism."

For Bengaluru

The poll manifesto has presented separate vision for seven different geographical areas, including Bengaluru.

For Bengaluru, it has promised to set up a world class multi-modal transport hub similar to WTC transport hub in New York that will act as a single central node for all public and on-demand transport services. It has also promised to create a Bengaluru Unified Transit Network, which is inspired by Transport for London, to revolutionise the city's commuter experience through public engagement and continuous evolution. This is in addition to the promise to develop a comprehensive mobile app that integrates AI-driven solutions to tackle Bengaluru's traffic challenges.

Similarly, the manifesto has presented vision documents for Central Karnataka, Coastal Karnataka, Kittur Karnataka, Kalyana Karnataka, Malnad, and Old Mysore region.

MAJOR POLL PROMISES

- Three free cooking gas cylinders each during the months of Ugadi, Ganesh Chaturthi, and Deepavali to BPL families
- Atal Ahara Kendras to be set up in every ward of all municipal corporations in the State to provide affordable and quality food
- Poshane scheme for giving half litre of Nandini milk a day to BPL families, besides 5 kg of millets a month along with regular ration kit
- Sarvarigu Suru scheme for providing 10 lakh sites across the State
- Ease of living to aparment dwellers in Bengaluru by forming the Karnataka Residents' Welfare Consultative Committee
- Visveswaraya Vidya Yojane for upgrading government schools
- Uniform Civil Code in the State based on recommendations by a high-level committee
- National Register of Citizens in Karnataka
- Creation of a special wing in State police titled 'Karnataka – State Wing Against Religious Fundamentalism and Terror' (K-SWIFT)
- Career support for aspirational youth through financial incentives to pursue coaching for IAS/KAS/banking exams

Govt. setting the clock back by allowing 12-hour shift for factory workers: Kharge

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

AICC president M. Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday alleged that both the BJP governments at the Centre and State have been following "anti-labour" law by passing the legislation amending the Factories Act, 1948, to allow for extending of working day up to 12 hours a day.

The State government has conceded the demands of MNCs and in the name of ease of doing business, extended work hours, he said, speaking to reporters. This "is like setting the clock back", said Mr. Kharge, who is also the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha.

In February this year, Karnataka adopted the Factories (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2023, to

M. Mallikarjun Kharge

allow for increasing the number of hours of work from nine to up to 12, inclusive of rest intervals, subject to a maximum of 48 hours in any week.

Women on night shift

On allowing women on night shift in factories, he asked, "When unemployment was at a record high, can a female employee say no to night shifts?" Four labour codes have been passed without a debate in the Parliament, he pointed out. "These codes weaken protections for workers and are anti-worker because governments have enormous flexibility to waive workplace safety requirements, social security, and protection from layoffs," the Congress leader said. Mr. Kharge, who served as the Labour Minister in the UPA government, said while speaking on the Labour Day (May 1), "I am a labourer's son and have led a labour union. I know what is needed to tackle real problems. The first step is to stop ignoring workers in decision-making and revive the voice of workers in the government. We always believed in inclusive decision-making which leads to inclusive development and gave several rights and guarantees to fellow citizens".

'Enhance security on borders ahead of polls'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Ahead of next week's Assembly polls in Karnataka, the Election Commission on Monday directed for enhanced vigilance on the State's borders with a special focus on 185 inter-State checkposts across the six neighboring States.

Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Jain held a virtual review meeting with Chief Secretaries, Director Generals of Police, Nodal Police Officers and senior officials from enforcement agencies, including Coast Guard, Narcotics Control Bureau and Income Tax Departments of Karnataka and the border States of Goa, Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala to review the election arrangements and law and order situation.

The CEC directed State teams for enhanced vigilance on the borders. He specifically emphasised the need for vigil over the 185 inter-State checkposts across the six neighboring States to ensure that no cross border movement of illicit cash, liquor, drugs and freebies takes place.

Taking note of the seizure of over ₹305 crore till date in this election as compared to ₹83 crore in the 2018 Assembly polls, the CEC said that the responsibility to control money power should be fixed on local officers. The poll body asked the officials to take stricter action against anti-social elements and act against kingpins to prevent stockpiling of liquor.

The commission also asked the officials to keep a strict watch over social media for any violations and fake narratives vitiating the election atmosphere. He urged the officials to raise the bar further on voter turnout, gender, youth and urban electors participation.

HDK says JD(S) is 'B-team' of Kannadigas; Gowda says 'no comments' on Modi's remark

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU/BENGALURU

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's jibe on Janata Dal (Secular) as the "B-team of Congress", former Chief Minister and JD (S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy said that the JD (S) is the B-team of Kannadigas.

"Mr. Modi calls us the B-team and Siddaramaiah also calls us B-team. What can I say? Every day I speak about the people of Karnataka. I am in the B-team of Kannadigas. What can I do about what is in their heads," Mr. Kumaraswamy told presspersons at Badami on Monday.

Meanwhile, speaking in Suratkal, JD(S) supremo H.D. Deve Gowda refused to comment. "Mr. Gandhi called the JD(S) as 'B-team' of BJP in 2018. Mr. Modi has called JD(S) as B-team

H.D. Kumaraswamy

of the Congress. I will not make any comment on it. There is freedom of speech and they can say anything. People will decide."

Asked about Mr. Modi's statement that JD(S) is a private limited company, he said: "I will not speak anything lightly on Mr. Modi, who is our Prime Minister. He has freedom of speech and he can say anything."

After Mr. Gandhi's remark of JD (S) being the B-team at an election rally in Hassan in 2018, Mr. Modi at an election rally at Chennapatna in Ramanagara district on Sunday termed the JD (S) as the B-team of Congress. The JD (S) leaders had not responded to the remarks on Sunday.

On Mr. Modi's references on the JD (S) as a dynasty party and using Karnataka as an ATM, Mr. Kumaraswamy said, "The BJP double engine sarkar is looting people and Mr. Modi is discussing corruption." On Mr. Modi's reaction to the venomous snake remark, Mr. Kumaraswamy said snakes are always dangerous to all. "There are damaged crops due to untimely rains. Discussion should be on these lines and not on snakes and vishakanye."

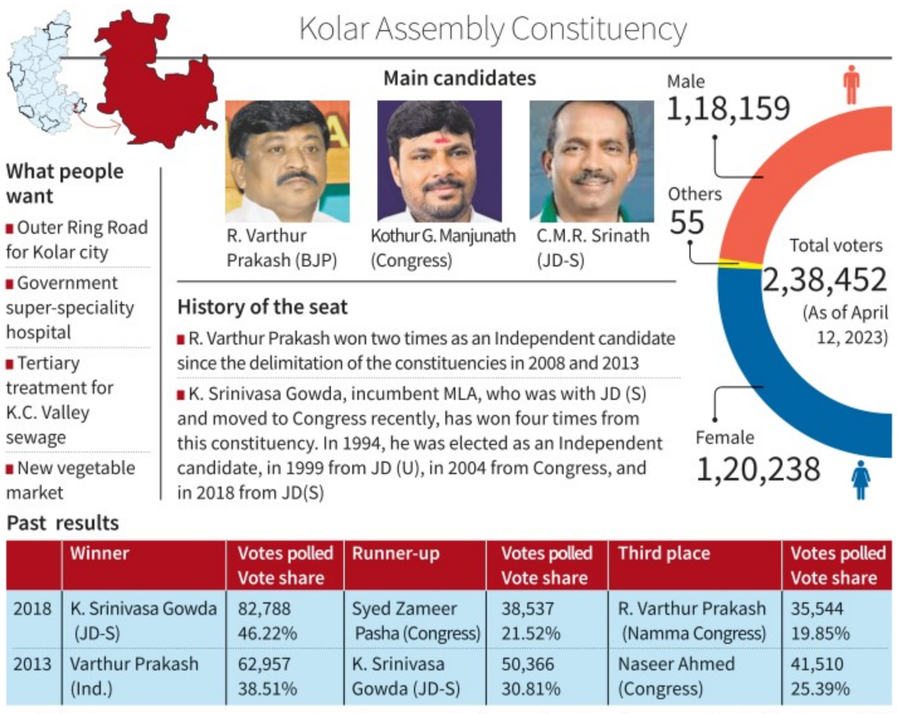
With Siddaramaiah not in the fray, it is a triangular fight in Kolar segment

KEY CONSTITUENCY

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

A triangular fight has emerged between the Bharatiya Janata Party, Congress and Janata Dal (Secular), after former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah did not enter the election fray from Kolar Assembly constituency.

Against speculation of Mr. Siddaramaiah's possible entry, Congress high command fielded Kothur G. Manjunath from here. Mr. Manjunath was elected to the Assembly as an Independent from Mulbagal constituency in 2013 but was disqualified by the High Court of Karnataka on the charge of furnishing an illegal caste certificate.



Past results

	Winner	Votes polled Vote share	Runner-up	Votes polled Vote share	Third place	Votes polled Vote share
2018	K. Srinivasa Gowda (JD-S)	82,788 46.22%	Syed Zameer Pasha (Congress)	38,537 21.52%	R. Varthur Prakash (Namma Congress)	35,544 19.85%
2013	Varthur Prakash (Ind.)	62,957 38.51%	K. Srinivasa Gowda (JD-S)	50,366 30.81%	Naseer Ahmed (Congress)	41,510 25.39%

Former Minister and two-term Independent MLA R. Varthur Prakash has contested from BJP and C.M.R. Srinath, a fresh face, has been fielded from JD(S). Mr. Siddaramaiah's withdrawal from the election fray in Kolar has disappointed many congress leaders in the district, including former Minister K.R. Ramesh Kumar, K.Y. Nanje Gowda and others. It is said that these leaders had been creating a base for Mr. Siddaramaiah since last year. They were hopeful that Mr. Siddaramaiah's entry would benefit them as well electorally. Both Congress and JD(S) have their own set of workers in Kolar constituency. However, supporters have come to BJP because of Mr. Varthur Prakash joining the party. The JD(S) and Mr. Prakash have strong hold in rural areas, while Congress is stronger in urban areas. Each party is making strategies keeping this in mind.Mr. Kothur Manjunath is facing internal opposition from the local leaders in the constituency. Incumbent MLA K. Srinivas Gowda has not effectively participated in the election campaign, point out many. He had offered to make way for Mr. Siddaramaiah and opted out of fray.

Mr. Siddaramaiah's withdrawal from the election fray in Kolar has disappointed many congress leaders in the district

Kolar-Chickballapur DCC Bank president and one among the party ticket aspirants Byalahally Govinda Gowda and former MLC V.R. Sudharshan are keeping themselves away from the campaign. Former Member of Parliament K.H. Muniyappa's supporters are also not in the field. As far as BJP is concerned, Mr. Varthur Prakash is asking for votes by projecting development works in the constituency.

Mr. Srinath of JD(S) is depending on the success and promises of Panchajanya Yatra by former Prime Minister H.D. Devegowda and former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy. His own work during the pandemic too might come to his help.

As far as caste calculations go, among 2,38,452 voters, 62,000 are Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST). Muslim community has 54,000 votes, about 35,000 are Vokkaligas, 26,000 are from Kuruba community, and about 11,000 are Christians. An estimated 6,000 Lingayat and 40,000 other community votes are in the constituency, according to parties. Therefore, SC/ST and Muslim community votes play a major role here.

Continued neglect

Many people in the constituency talk about continued neglect. Abbani Shivappa, a farmer leader, said, "Kolar is one among the dry districts and it facing severe water problem. But our elected representatives have neglected real issues of the people."

"Ever since the K.V. Valley project implementation, we are demanding tertiary sewage water treatment, but there is no proper response from any government," he added.

Assault on regional identity up under BJP: Cong. leader

Nistula Hebbar
BENGALURU

Krishna Byre Gowda

Questions of regional identity, language and culture have been foregrounded in a big way by the Congress in its election campaign in Karnataka, a move, says senior party leader Krishna Byre Gowda, which was necessitated by rising "levels of assault" on regional concerns by the BJP.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Gowda, who was Agriculture Minister in the Siddaramaiah government and is in the poll fray from Byatarayanapura constituency, said: "These issues have become more pronounced and more necessary under the BJP regime because prior to this there wasn't such a level of assault on regional identity, culture and language. Now the attempted imposition of Hindi using the government machinery has become more pronounced, hence we have to speak up for diversity, for all cultures and language, and we demand respect for every one of them," he said.

"It is also necessary in the face of financial injustice to States, especially more progressive States like Karnataka. It is very pronounced under BJP. There are many Union public sector undertakings in Karnataka and we saw their identities go, like Vijaya Bank, State Bank of Mysore and now if we have to lose a farmers' organisation like the milk federation [Nandini], which will severely jolt the interests of farmers, the situation created has forced us to be more assertive on issues of regional identity and interests. If BJP had followed a more federal, diverse approach, these issues would not have come to the forefront," he added.

On being asked about the general perception that the BJP has dialled down on issues such as hijab and halal meat, he said that it could be because of pushback from Kannadigas. "They have milked this polarisation to its maximum utility, and they probably realised that beyond a certain point, Kannadigas react adversely to pushing this too far," he said.

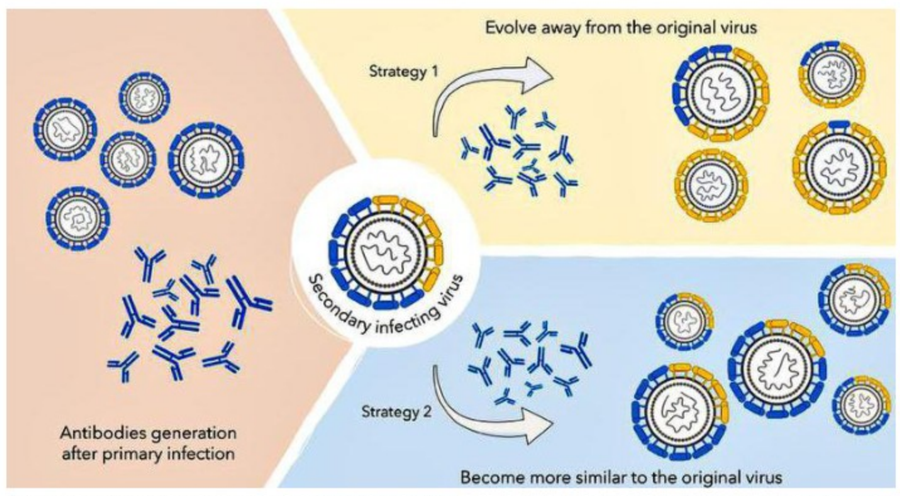
"Even the caste reservations that they tried to play with have boomeranged in a way, with the same government going to the Supreme Court not even bothering to defend their decision, in the three times they have appeared before it," he said.

Mr. Gowda asserted that while the BJP was trying to gain traction in Southern Karnataka, it was unlikely to hurt the Congress.

Virus causing dengue has evolved dramatically in India, finds study

We have been trying to understand how different Indian variants are. We have found out they are very different from the original strains used to develop the vaccines, says corresponding author

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU



Dengue is a mosquito-borne viral disease that has steadily increased in the last 50 years, predominantly in the South-East Asian countries. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A multi-institutional study on dengue, led by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc.), shows how the virus causing the disease has evolved dramatically over the last few decades in the Indian sub-continent.

Dengue is a mosquito-borne viral disease that has steadily increased in the last 50 years, predominantly in the South-East Asian countries and there are four broad categories or serotypes of the dengue virus (Dengue 1, 2, 3 and 4).

"We were trying to understand how different the Indian variants are, and we found that they are very different from the original strains used to develop the vaccines," said Rahul Roy, Associate Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering (CE), IISc., and corresponding author of the study published in *PLoS Pathogens*.

He and his collaborators examined all available (408) genetic sequences of Indian dengue strains from infected patients collected between 1956 and 2018.

Using computational analysis, the team examined how much each of these dengue virus serotypes deviated from their ancestral sequence, from each other, and from other global sequences. The team found that the sequences were changing in a very complex fashion.

Until 2012, the dominant strains in India were Dengue 1 and 3.

But in recent years, Dengue 2 has become more dominant, while Dengue 4 - once considered the least infectious - is now making a niche for itself in South India, the researchers found.

Factors that decide

"The team sought to investigate what factors decide which strain is the dominant one at any given time. One possible factor could be Antibody Dependent Enhancement (ADE)," said Suraj Jagtap, PhD student at CE and first author of the study.

Mr. Jagtap said that sometimes, people might be infected first with one serotype and then develop a secondary infection with a different serotype, leading to more severe symptoms.

Scientists believe that if the second serotype is similar to the first, the antibodies in the host's blood generated after the first infection bind to the new serotype and bind to immune cells called macrophages. This proximity allows the newcomer to infect macrophages, making the infection more severe.

Several types co-exist

At any given time, several strains of each serotype exist in the viral population. The antibodies generated in the human body after a primary infection provide complete protection from all serotypes for about 2-3 years.

Over time, the antibody levels begin to drop, and cross-serotype protection is lost.

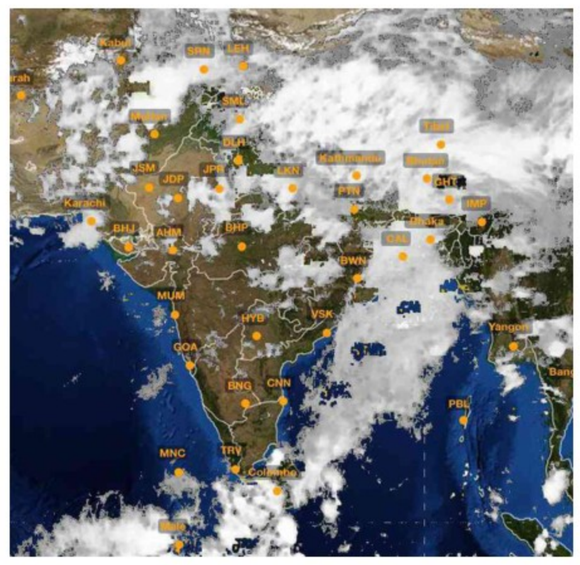
Dominant strain

The researchers propose that if the body is infected around this time by a similar - not identical - viral strain, then ADE kicks in, giving a huge advantage to this new strain, causing it to become the dominant strain in the population.

Such an advantage lasts for a few more years, after which the antibody levels become too low to make a difference.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Punjab, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Telangana, Rayalaseema, South Interior Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	35.0	24.1	Kozhikode	3.0	36.0	24.9
Ahmedabad	1.0	35.2	21.5	Kurnool	70.0	35.0	22.1
Aizawl	—	35.4	18.6	Lucknow	3.0	30.0	20.5
Allahabad	—	31.3	21.4	Madurai	—	35.0	25.1
Bengaluru	26.0	32.0	21.5	Mangaluru	—	34.6	25.0
Bhopal	31.0	30.0	17.6	Mumbai	—	32.8	25.5
Bhubaneswar	—	39.6	25.9	Mysuru	—	36.0	24.4
Chandigarh	—	25.7	21.3	New Delhi	—	26.1	19.4
Chennai	1.0	35.4	27.2	Patna	22.4	35.5	21.1
Coimbatore	16.0	35.0	24.0	Port Blair	—	34.5	28.3
Dehradun	17.0	30.0	16.6	Puducherry	0.6	34.9	27.2
Gangtok	3.0	17.5	13.2	Pune	—	36.0	20.8
Goa	—	34.2	24.6	Raipur	12.4	25.6	19.5
Guwahati	21.0	33.0	20.6	Ranchi	—	26.4	21.0
Hubballi	—	34.0	21.0	Shillong	0.1	22.3	14.0
Hyderabad	67.0	30.4	19.6	Shimla	53.0	12.9	8.9
Imphal	—	33.0	22.2	Srinagar	0.4	19.8	11.3
Jaipur	8.0	29.8	18.4	Thiruvananthapuram	1.0	33.6	25.6
Kochi	1.0	32.2	25.6	Tiruchi	16.0	34.5	26.0
Kohima	—	22.6	18.5	Vijayawada	35.0	27.8	23.0
Kolkata	5.0	30.8	23.4	Visakhapatnam	0.8	27.2	27.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.40	100	.48	128	130	
Bengaluru	.07	.23	.38	—	78	
Chennai	.02	.49	101	39	36	
Delhi	.07	.38	.39	171	97	
Hyderabad	.11	.10	.36	84	74	
Kolkata	.09	.20	.19	50	53	
Lucknow	.08	126	.42	40	55	
Mumbai	.16	.06	150	18	39	
Pune	.11	.19	.40	78	125	
Visakhapatnam	.16	.43	.25	46	68	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 266 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 20

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Additional forces deployed in Kuppam after clashes between YSRCP and TDP supporters

The Hindu Bureau
CHITTOOR

Additional police forces have been deployed in the Kuppam Assembly constituency after clashes erupted between the ruling YSRCP and the Opposition Telugu Desam Party (TDP) supporters in two villages over the organisation of village festivals. Superintendent of Police (Tirupati) P. Parameshwar Reddy, who is in charge of the Chittoor district, visited Kuppam town and surrounding areas on Sunday evening and appealed to the public to cooperate with the police to maintain law and order.

After interacting with the people of Palarlapalle village, he told pressperssons that the two groups clashed over the collection of donations and expenditures for the *Gangamma Jatara* festival at the village on April 27.

Objections raised

The elders of both parties had collected ₹3,500 from each family in Palarlapalle. The quarrel, however, began when the supporters of one political party had raised objection.

A similar incident took place over the village festival at Lakshmipuram village in Kuppam limits on April 28, and the police brought the situation under control. Against this backdrop, a youth was attacked, and his motorcycle was burnt in Kuppam on April 29.

The youth and his supporters then went to the houses of some local YSRCP leaders and set a tractor and two bikes on fire.

The Superintendent of Police said that the police intervened in time and brought the situation under control.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the general public that my client Mr. Syed Asif son of late Syed Abdul Sattar is the absolute owner of Property bearing Survey No. 125, situated at Doddabanahalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, measuring 3=05 acres, and bounded on East by: Government Horticulture Land, West by : Private property, North by : Government Horticulture Land and Gomal land of Doddabanahalli and South by : Private Property,and my client is the absolute ownerin enjoyment and possession of the above said property. It was also brought to the notice of the Public by a Public Notice which was published on 04th September 2018 in the daily news paper of HINDU not to commit with any person/s for entering into any Sale Agreement pertaining to the aforesaid property.

M/s Unishire Builders have made fake documents and made fraudulent transaction and are trying to dispose the above property. The general public is hereby informed not to enter into any sale transaction since the following case is pending :-

1.O.S. No.242/2021 on the file of the Principal Senior Civil Judge, Bangalore Rural, at Bangalore against

a)M/s Unishire Housing LLP A Limited Liability Partnership Firm Having its registered office at #36, UNISHIRE SQUARE Railway Parallel Road,Kumara Park West, Bangalore-560020.By its Authorised Signatory Mr.G.Nandkumar Son of Late Sri.M.G.Swamy.

b)Mr. N.Praveen Kumar Partner of **M/s Unishire Housing LLP** A Limited Liability Partnership Firm Having its registered office at #36, UNISHIRE SQUARE Railway Parallel Road,Kumara Park West, Bangalore-560020.

c) A.P.G. Abode Homes Pvt Ltd. A Company Incorporated under the laws of India,having it CINNo:- U45309KA2018PTC109187 Having its office at Second Floor Embassy Icon Annex, Infantry Road,Bangalore-560001.

d)**OHM Developers Private Ltd.**, A Company Incorporated under the laws of India Having its registered office at # 106/10-11-12, Amruthahalli,Bellary Road, Bangalore-560092

2.Whereas in addition to the above case, O.S.No.884/2015 is also pending on the file of the Principal Senior Civil Judge, Bangalore Rural, at Bangalore against B.D.A.

Therefore, once again the public is warned not to deal with any sale transaction with any other person/s as well as with the above said companies, if they do so they are committing at their own risk.

Advocate.
M.D.RAGHUNATH
Phone : 080 41622691
Dated:01st May 2023 Place: Bangalore.

Before the National Company Law Tribunal Bench at Bengaluru
Company Petition No. 30/BB/2021
Celestica (India) Private Limited – Petitioner
Registered Office : First Floor, No. 6/12, Primrose Road, Gurappa Avenue, Bangalore-560 025 CIN: U31909KA2005PTC035565
Email: celestica-india-cls@celestica.com Tel No: 080 25595911

NOTICE OF REDUCTION OF PAID-UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL
(C.P. No. 30/BB/2021 under Section 66 of the Companies Act, 2013)

The Honorable National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Bengaluru Bench vide its order dated 31st March, 2023 has approved the "Reduction of Share Capital" of the Company by approving the Minutes set forth in below:

"The paid-up equity share capital of the company is henceforth Rs. 94,52,500/- (Rupees Ninety-Four Lakhs Fifty Two Thousand Five Hundred only) divided into 9,45,250 (Nine lakhs Forty Five Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty) equity shares of Rs.10/- each. At the date of registration of this minute the issued, subscribed and fully paid-up capital shall be deemed to be Rs.94,52,500/- (Rupees Ninety Four Lakhs Fifty Two Thousand and Five Hundred only) divided into 9,45,250 (Nine Lakhs Forty Five Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty) equity shares of Rs.10/- each and Reserve and Surplus will be Rs. 3,45,49,793/- (Rupees Three Crore Forty Five Lakhs Forty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Three only)."

This Advertisement is being published as per the directions of the NCLT, in its Order dated 31st March, 2023.

For Celestica (India) Private Limited,
Sd/-
Sankaran Subramanian
Managing Director
DIN: 07820772
Date: 02.05.2023
Place: Bangalore

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that our clients are intending to Purchase the property more fully described in the Schedule hereunder from its present owner **Smt. Kamalamma K**, who has represented that she has a clear and marketable title to the same. Any person/s, financial institutions, statutory authorities or any other persons/s representing any private or public companies or any partnership firm or any society who claim any right, title or interest of any nature in or any lien, charge or enforceable right in relation to the Schedule Property and/or has any objections of any nature to the aforesaid transaction should lodge such claim and/or objections in writing to the undersigned, **within Seven (7) days** from the date of issue of this notice with documentary evidence failing which, it will be presumed that no valid claims or objections subsist and any objection/s or claims made thereafter will not be binding on my clients and my clients would proceed to complete the transaction with the present owner thereof subject to compliance with other statutory and legal formalities.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, BHAVESH Paragbhai Patel S/O Paragbhai Patel born on 11 July 1976 residing at #H–306 Leonardo, Purva Venezia, Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan Road, Near Mother Dairy, Yelahanka New Town, Yelahanka, Bangalore – 560064 have changed my name to Bhavesh Patel vide affidavit dated 29 April 2023 at Bangalore

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I Jaya Rani W/O, Rajkumar R/o B-3 Michal Sadan Lakshmi Udyog Nagar Kanjurmarg West Mumbai 400078 have changed my name to Jeyarani Rajkumar for all purposes.

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SUKHI ARCADE, 175, Chickpet Main Road, Bangalore - 560 053.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

SECOND ANNIVERSARY

G. NANDAGOPAL
26.12.1945 – 02.05.2021
"You live in our hearts forever"
Fondly remembered by:
G. Kanmani - wife, G.Prakash, G. Hariharan, M.Sujatha
9884795879

EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY

PREMA RAJAGOPAL
Date of Death : 02.05.2015
"You are always with us"
Fondly remembered by
K. Rajagopal, Meenakshi & Raghu
Sudha & Praveen, Radhika & Gopinath
and Grandchildren.

DEATH

Mr. E. Benny Andrews (47)
Foreman (Non Supervisory), Transport Department, **The Hindu,** Chennai passed away on 30-04-2023.
1/448, Bharathiyar Street, Ramji Nagar, Naduveerapattu, Somangalam, Chennai-600069.
Ph: 6383442010

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES

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Buying time

Dithering on the Adani group probe will dent SEBI's credibility

Barely two days before the expiry of a Supreme Court-stipulated deadline to probe allegations raised by Hindenburg Research about misdemeanours and violations of stock market norms by the Adani group, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has sought at least six more months from the Court to finalise its findings. Following the bloodbath in the prices of most Adani group stocks after the publication of Hindenburg's report in late January, the Court had responded to a PIL and set up an expert committee to investigate the causal factors behind investor losses and ascertain regulatory failures. The SEBI chief, who termed the Hindenburg-Adani-linked issues as "the elephant in the room", was to ensure the committee gets the information it needs. Separately, the Court tasked the regulator to speedily conclude its ongoing probe into the group for violations of its regulations. It also sought a look into whether the group had flouted the minimum public shareholding norms, failed to disclose related-party transactions, and manipulated stock prices. The two-month deadline set for SEBI and the expert committee, led by former Court judge A.M. Sapre, ends on May 2. SEBI's last-minute plea for more time, shall also affect – if not effectively derail – the deliberations of the Justice Sapre panel.

The regulator has "crystallised a prima facie view" on some issues, including a dozen suspicious transactions that pertain to misrepresentation of financials, circumvention of norms and possible fraud. However, it has cited the complexities of the transactions to argue that a detailed assessment would normally take 15 months and it is trying to do it in six months. Even if one leaves aside the merit of the complexity card played by a professionally-led independent regulator with a primary mandate to protect investor interests, the timelines suggested are disingenuous. If SEBI does submit its report to the Court by this November, it would mark 10 months since the Hindenburg report, and almost two years since it initially started examining complaints against the group. Where wrongdoing has been found, it need not take six months to confirm them. Interim findings must be presented with any caveats deemed fit, just as interim orders can be passed on established violations (thus, informing and protecting investors) rather than condoning them in the name of uncovering the big picture. For an issue that has undermined the credibility of the Indian market and its governance standards at a scale unmatched by the Satyam fiasco and the IL&FS implosion, SEBI's petition does not inspire confidence. And that is bad news for investors in India's financial markets.

Political remission

The circumstances of the release of Anand Mohan Singh are unsettling

The Bihar government's decision late last month to grant remission to Anand Mohan Singh is a disturbing political signal given the circumstances under which the remission was done. At the time of his release, the former MP, who was out on parole for his son's engagement, was serving life sentence after being convicted for the murder of the then District Magistrate of Gopalganj and young IAS officer, G. Krishnaiah, in December 1994. It was to avenge a police encounter death that a mob owing allegiance to Singh had murdered the Scheduled Caste civil servant, who hailed from a landless family. Apparently aimed at benefiting Singh, the government, on April 10, amended the Bihar Prison Manual, 2012, removing the "murder of a public servant on duty" clause from the case list for which remission cannot be considered. The Patna District and Sessions Court, in 2007, had awarded capital punishment to Singh, which was judicially commuted to life sentence. The tweaking of the rules was followed up with another notification ordering the release of 27 prisoners, including Singh (they had all spent at least 14 years in jail). The State's defence that it "followed all rules and regulations" is no argument as the change in rule appears to have been made to benefit a specific person. Also, the argument that the amendment has brought Bihar on a par with other States is weak because the original stipulation was meant to have a deterrent effect in a State that is notorious for the criminalisation of politics. That Singh's "good conduct" was a factor too falls flat as in October 2021, a search of his jail ward led to the seizure of mobile phones.

It is not difficult to decipher the rationale behind Singh's release as Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, in January, had assured Singh's supporters at an event that he was "doing his best" to set the former MP free. The compulsions of electoral politics confound the situation. What is of solace is that the government's action is being challenged in courts including the Supreme Court; the civil servant's wife, Uma Krishnaiah, has made an appeal. Apart from demoralising civil servants, the move sets an unhealthy precedent that shakes the principle of good governance. The circumstances of this case cannot be justified on any ground. This has the danger of compelling a government official to take decisions in his or her day-to-day affairs, keeping in mind only the influence wielded by extra constitutional persons. Other States would do well to treat the Anand Mohan Singh release as a case study to show how a decision in governance should not be taken. As a matter of propriety, the Bihar government should reconsider its decisions of tweaking the remission rules and releasing the former MP.

The importance of constitutional punctuality

Manuraj Shunmuga sundaram

is Spokesperson, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and an advocate practising before the High Court of Madras

Recently, the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly passed a resolution seeking to provide for a time frame for Governors to act on Bills passed by the State Legislature. The motivation was that the Governor of Tamil Nadu, R.N. Ravi, had withheld assent to as many as 13 Bills passed by the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly. Last week, the Supreme Court of India, while disposing of a case filed by the State of Telangana against its Governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan, remarked that Governors should not sit over Bills indefinitely. Taking this sentiment farther, the idea of constitutional punctuality need not be restricted to gubernatorial offices alone. All constitutional high offices including those of the President of India and Speakers of Assemblies must *suo motu* evolve guidelines to discharge duties in a time-bound manner.

In the resolution passed on April 10, 2023, the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly urged the Union Government and President to advise the Governor to decide on the bills passed by the State Legislatures within a reasonable time period. The resolution, proposed by the Chief Minister, M.K. Stalin, argued that it was important to protect the sovereignty of the Legislatures and, ultimately, safeguard parliamentary democracy.

Subsequently, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu wrote to his counterparts in other Opposition-ruled States and encouraged them to pass similar resolutions in their Assemblies. So far, the Chief Ministers of Delhi, Kerala, and West Bengal have expressed their support for the resolution and its underlying principles. In the case of Telangana, the State had already filed a writ petition seeking direction from the Supreme Court to the Governor to decide on the Bills, passed by the Assembly, in a timely manner. Looking at these developments, it would be fair to say that the time has come to evolve a new constitutional architecture that would deliver on the demands for a time-bound constitutional delivery mechanism.

Evolving constitutional scheme

When the Constitution was adopted, in consequence of independence from British rule, some of the sovereign functions were retained for the sake of continuity in governance. As such, there was no time limit fixed for various authorities to discharge duties that arose out of the constitutional scheme. It may also be understood that the drafters of the Constitution, in their contemporaneous wisdom, expected Raj Bhavans to be nominated with those who would discharge sovereign duties beyond the confines of political partisanship.

> Constitutional high offices must evolve guidelines to discharge their duties in a time-bound manner, safeguarding the will of the people

Article 200 of the Constitution, as it stands today, limits the options before the Governor to give assent to the Bill sent by the legislature, or withhold assent, or reserve a Bill for the consideration of the President. The nub of the issue is that Governors have wrongly understood the function to grant assent to have endowed them with some discretionary responsibility. However, the direct import of the words used in the Constitution as well as a composite reading of the debates in the Constituent Assembly (when this portion of the Constitution was deliberated and, subsequently, adopted) portrays an altogether different interpretation.

The original draft Article 175 moved for discussion in 1949 read as follows: "Provided that where there is only one House of the Legislature and the Bill has been passed by that House, the Governor may, in his discretion, return the Bill together with a message requesting that the House will reconsider the Bill."

While moving the amendment to this Article on July 30, 1949, B.R. Ambedkar said there "can be no room for a Governor acting on discretion" and recommended removing the phrase "the Governor, in his discretion". Therefore, the final Article, adopted by the Constituent Assembly and embedded in the Constitution explicitly negates any discretionary power.

This position has been fortified by a seven-Judge Bench of the Supreme Court in *Shamsher Singh & Anr vs State Of Punjab* (1974), wherein it was held that the discretion of the Governor is extremely limited and, even in such rare cases shall act in a manner that is not detrimental to the interest of the state. Furthermore, the Supreme Court has repeatedly held that the Governor shall only act on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers.

Moreover, a simple and plain reading of the Article is sufficient to show how the meaning of the phrase "withholds assent therefrom" has been wilfully misinterpreted to mean holding back the Bill – an act which is colloquially referred to as pocket veto. There can be nothing further from constitutional reality and literary meaning. Any straightforward reading of withholding assent can only mean to return the Bill; and not to hold back. The problem is accentuated as there is no time-limit prescribed to return the Bill, and, as such, Governors have considered themselves to be unaccountable to the principles of time-bound governance.

Time-bound governance

Other jurisdictions where similar powers have been bestowed show a starkly different picture. In the United Kingdom, there has been no royal veto since 1708 when the assent to the Scottish Militia Bill was vetoed by Queen Anne. Whereas in the United States, there is a time limit of 10 days for the President to give assent or veto a bill. If the President does not sign or vetoes the Bill within this time, it automatically becomes an Act. If the President vetoes and returns the bill to the Congress or Senate, then both the chambers of the Congress must override the veto for it to become a law.

Over time, matters involving an inexplicable delay in exercising powers by various authorities have been brought under the ambit of judicial review by constitutional courts. The Supreme Court, in *Keisham Meghachandra Singh vs The Hon'ble Speaker Manipur* (2020), issued a writ of mandamus to the Speaker of the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly to decide on the disqualification petitions under the 10th Schedule of the Constitution within a period of four weeks.

In the case filed by the State of Telangana against the Governor, the Supreme Court found it fit to highlight the spirit of Article 200. While disposing of the case on April 24, 2023, the Court acknowledged that the words in Article 200, "as soon as possible after the presentation of the Bill", held significant constitutional content and that Governors should necessarily bear this in mind.

As such, it would be appropriate for various constitutional authorities such as Governors exercising powers under Article 200 and Speakers acting as quasi-judicial tribunals under Tenth Schedule to evolve strict time frames and avoid unnecessary delays. Only such an approach will advance the constitutional scheme and safeguard the will of the people exercised through the legislatures.

Inputs for this article by Arun P.S.

The script and track of a master storyteller

Amitabha Bhattacharya

a retired IAS officer, had served as Principal Adviser (Education and Culture), Planning Commission, New Delhi. He had also worked in the private sector and with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Satyajit Ray, director, script writer, documentary film-maker, author, illustrator and composer, to name a few, had a flair for sketching from his childhood. His drawing teacher in school used to say that he was Satyajit not merely by name but in his deeds as well (translation mine). Praising his integrity, a British manager in the advertising firm where Ray worked, made the comment that there was no *chalaki* (craftiness) in him.

Decades later, in an interview with the film critic, Iqbal Masud, on *Shatranj Ke Khilari*, Ray said, "One can well imagine a treatment of annexation with Wazid painted whiter and General Outram blacker, which would automatically enhance its popular appeal. My treatment avoids this falsification." (August 1978). Do all these fall in place? Does not Ray's oeuvre reflect 'art wedded to truth' that he valued so much?

The world of Ray

Extensive literature exists on the artistic merits of Ray's cinema. New books are being written and fresh appraisals made of all his films. While Ray continued to renew himself and explore new frontiers, critics, especially those based in the West, failed to keep pace with him. Nevertheless, the subterranean truthfulness of his persona and outpourings has never been questioned.

In his book, *My Adventures with Satyajit Ray: Making of Shatranj Ke Khilari* (HarperCollins, 2017), producer Suresh Jindal faithfully chronicles his experience of how meticulous Ray had been in his research and treatment of the subject. Understandably, Ray took much longer time for his documentary on Tagore than for a feature. And for advancing the cause of good cinema, he did not mince words even at the cost of raising controversy and being misunderstood.

Ray's critique of his contemporary Mrinal Sen's film *Akash Kusum*, the much younger Mani Kaul's *Duvidha*, Kumar Shahani's *Maya Darpan* and Bapu's *Seeta Kalyanam* emanated from his conviction. In all these cases, he explained clearly the reasons behind.

> Truthfulness was the defining feature in the life and work of Satyajit Ray, whose birth anniversary falls today

While Ray sounded critical of the initial works of a few directors, he was equally appreciative of others such as Adoor Gopalakrishnan, Shyam Benegal and M.S. Sathyu. Among his contemporaries, his writings on Jean-Luc Godard who introduced radical departures from certain established norms of cinema, or comments on Ritwik Ghatak who remained uninfluenced by Ray, are cases in point.

In his convocation address at the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune (1974), his indictment, '...that in our country at least, films have been made with virtually no contribution from the director or at least nothing of a positive nature...', raised some hackles. He contended that of various kinds of people contributing to a film here, the director's was (often) the least palpable.

Ray developed his own style and cinematic idiom, often laced with understatement, humour and irony, while never undermining the audience. Therefore, his comment that *Shatranj* was not for the *Sholay* audience, was not to disparage *Sholay*. In fact, he had 'real admiration for *Sholay*'s craftsmanship....' What he indicated was that *Sholay* was aimed at mass audiences, whereas *Shatranj* was not.

Since cinema is the highest form of commercial art, audience taste cannot be ignored altogether. At the FTII convocation, Ray bared his mind: "One can draw an analogy with cooking here and say that when a large number of people having a meal finds a certain dish unpalatable, the cook is in no position to blame them for failing to rise to the level of his concoction... as long as it stays in the cans, a film is a dead matter. It comes to life and serves its purpose only in the theatre, in the presence of the public." However, remaining truthful to self, the audience, and to the demands of the subject being handled is a feat few masters can accomplish.

In an article (April 5, 2023, *The New Indian Express*), Adoor Gopalakrishnan alludes to his telling Ray that he must have contributed substantially to the original text of Bibhutibhushan Bandyopadhyay's *Pather Panchali*, in terms of richness in minute details and a keen observation of life in a remote village in Bengal. Ray's answer surprised him, "No, Adoor, it is all in the book."

Though not a propagandist, and too individualistic to be swayed by any dogma, his stand against state authoritarianism, religious superstitions, corruption and loss of innocence was portrayed in his characteristic style.

Cinema and the deeper truth

I still remember our discussion at his residence decades ago, when he explained how 'deeper truth' is depicted in cinema. This keenness to go beyond the surface of reality and probe deeper into the conditions of our life marked films that bore his stamp. From truthfulness arose his determination to support causes dear to his heart.

Over four decades ago, the tax authorities in Andhra Pradesh decided to levy entertainment tax on film society screenings. The Vijaywada Film Society, as I remember, received such a notice. Aware that such a move would kill film-society activities, we brought the matter to the notice of Ray. Expectedly, he shot off a letter to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi who immediately intervened. The decision was promptly withdrawn.

According to Ravi Gupta, former managing director of the National Film Development Corporation of India, Ray was the only film-maker he knows of who had refunded a few lakh rupees to the organisation as unspent balance for his film, *Agantuk*. Having been associated with the production, commissioning and financing of about 200 films, he found this experience as unique in every sense.

Satyajit's Ray lit up much of our cinema. Didn't he live up to his name?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ludhiana gas leak

Pollution control boards in the country are one of the most corrupt bodies functioning in the country, with utter disregard for the health and safety of people (Page 1, "11 dead after inhaling toxic gas in Ludhiana", May 1). There is no coordination between the departments concerned including the local municipality, which is why Ludhianas are waiting to happen. Over seven decades after Independence, we are still struggling to make people understand the nuances of community living, social obligations, self discipline, national interests, unity and integrity. Making laws is not enough. Strict implementation of the same is the order of the day.

Govardhana Myneedu,
Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

Radio programme

I write this letter at the risk of being called an anti-national, or worse still, told to go to Pakistan. The Prime Minister's *Mann Ki Baat* has been a huge success, and has marked its 100th episode.

In the same breath, I wish to quote a Chinese proverb; Chinese by sheer coincidence — "[Mere] Talk doesn't cook rice."

Avinash Godboley,
Dewas, Madhya Pradesh

The programme is one-sided communication with no scope to listen to the people. When will press conferences be held where there is genuine dialogue and discussion?

Kshirasagara Balaji Rao,
Hyderabad

A hundred episodes have shown what India is to Indians. This is a programme that has educated, engaged and inspired change. The programme has also brought to light many hidden talents and recognised the contributions of the common man, the unsung heroes of India.

T.S. Karthik,
Chennai

Manual scavenging

It is a shame that when the world observed Labour Day on May 1, Gujarat has reported a number of manual scavenger deaths, from March 22 to April 26, 2023 (Inside pages, "Gujarat continues to witness deaths of manual scavengers, despite ban", May 1). With no medical or life insurance claims, inadequate protective gear, little or no monetary compensation for loss of lives, and job guarantee to the next of kin of the deceased, manual scavengers live in distressing and deplorable conditions. Every labourer is entitled to dignity and respect in his line of work. Without these virtues, observing Labour Day is meaningless.

Deepa Viswanath,
Bengaluru

In the year 2020, an invention by nine young engineers from Kerala called "Bandicoot", a spider-shaped robot that cleans manholes and sewers, and which won the Aarohan Social Innovation Gold Award instituted by the Infosys Foundation, spelt the end of manual scavenging. Why has it not been popularised?

Aravind Nair,
Kochi, Kerala

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

The death of another Nehruvian idea

A few days before National Science Day (February 28) this year, an official press release of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) cryptically announced the death of Vigyan Prasar, an autonomous body under its purview. It did not explain its decision to shut the agency, which is tasked with promoting scientific temper and enhancing public understanding of science through communication. Officials have tried to explain that the move was a part of an exercise initiated by the NITI Aayog to rationalise the functioning of autonomous societies functioning under various wings of the Union government.

The fact that Vigyan Prasar is not alone in this exercise is no consolation. The whole affair has been cloaked in secrecy, with no public consultation. Since it began as an exercise to target autonomous bodies, it implies that the government wants all its agencies to be centrally run and without functional, institutional, and intellectual autonomy.

Dinesh C. Sharma

is a columnist and author based in New Delhi. He was associated with Vigyan Prasar as the founding Managing Editor of India Science Wire from 2017 to 2019

The origins of Vigyan Prasar

While Vigyan Prasar started functioning in 1989, it was a Nehruvian idea of science communication and scientific awareness tracing itself to the early days of independence. It has been a part of an unbroken chain of government institutions and policies concerning scientific temper since 1947.

For Jawaharlal Nehru, science and technology were essential inputs in the nation-building project, and this was reflected in the creation of national laboratories, higher education institutions, large dams, and so on. To fight irrationality and obscurantism, Nehru supported a scheme to open 'Vigyan Mandirs'. These science centres, established to popularise scientific ideas in rural populations, were equipped with basic scientific appliances, books, film slides, etc. In the 1960s, science communication through All India Radio and 'Krishi Vigyan Kendras' played a pivotal role in the adoption of new, high-yielding crop varieties that powered the Green Revolution.

As new societal challenges like the energy crisis and superstitious beliefs emerged, the DST formed an agency to promote public debate on science and technology. Thus was born the National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC) in 1982. It supported several voluntary groups and grassroots science movements. One of its major contributions was the 'Bharat Jan Vigyan Jatha' (BJVJ) movement, which, after its culmination, gave birth to a network of voluntary organisations. This took the shape of the All India People's Science Network, which survives to date.

From the NCSTC's work and the momentum generated by BJVJ flowed the idea of a national institute of science and technology communication. This was Vigyan Prasar. Both NCSTC and Vigyan Prasar had a common driving force: Narender K. Sehgal. Vigyan Prasar prepared content on scientific temper and disseminated it widely via radio and TV in the 1990s. This includes 'Vigyan Vidhi' (13-part radio series on the method of science in 16 languages), 'Bharat Ki Chaap' (13-part TV series on the history of science in India), 'Maanav Ka Vikas' (144-part radio series on human evolution in 18 languages), 'Kyon Aur Kaise' (TV series on critical thinking), and 'A Question of Science' (TV show on scientific questions). It also commissioned filmmakers to produce documentaries about leading scientists, the history of science and similar subjects. One notable outreach project was ECLIPSE-95, a year-long programme to generate awareness and create safe viewing opportunities of the total solar eclipse of 1995. Since then, popular astronomy as a vehicle for spreading scientific literacy and awareness has been a key component of the agency's activities.

Far from its original mandate

More recently, however, Vigyan Prasar has veered away from its original mandate. New projects were launched without adequate preparation and coordination. For instance, the agency started 'DD Science' in collaboration with Doordarshan as a one-hour daily programme for science, but it started rehashing documentaries telecast earlier. This was followed by an OTT channel called 'IndiaScience.in'. While implementing these projects, Vigyan Prasar's leadership fell into the trap of equating science communication with government publicity. The OTT science channel degenerated into a propaganda platform, covering routine events such as the Prime Minister's Republic Day speech and 'Pariksha Pe Charcha'. The 'science channel' dutifully highlighted even minor events in the constituency of Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh. It left no stone unturned to glorify ancient texts and the "scientific benefits" of yoga.

The management also opened a revolving door between the agency and 'Vigyan Bharti' aka VIBHA, an affiliate of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. Senior Vigyan Prasar officials held posts in VIBHA and the two agencies organised joint events that were funded by Vigyan Prasar. An estimated ₹1.5 crore a year was given to VIBHA to organise an online science talent test called 'Vigyan Vidyarthi Manthan'; it included a module on "ancient science." It is strange that the rise of VIBHA has coincided with the decline of Vigyan Prasar in the past five years.

The government has not disclosed its motives to close Vigyan Prasar. In any case, the idea of Vigyan Prasar as an agency to promote scientific temper and critical thinking is dead. It does not matter if the entity is allowed to survive in any other form.

As Vigyan Prasar has veered away from its original mandate of promoting scientific temper, it matters little even if it survives in any other form

Walking a tightrope in Chhattisgarh

Social justice questions pose a dilemma for the Congress government

STATE OF PLAY

Shubhomoy Sikdar
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As Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel drives the Congress towards this year's Assembly elections, the rear-view mirror shows months of turmoil over the question of reservation and the challenge of maintaining a social coalition he has built in a State dominated by socio-economically disadvantaged groups.

The fact that the Supreme Court granted interim relief on Monday to the Chhattisgarh government on its plea challenging a State High Court order on reservations of September 2022 has come as a breather for Mr. Baghel. However, it opens up new possibilities of conflict. The apex court stayed the High Court order setting aside 58% reservation (32% for Scheduled Tribes, 14% for Other Backward Classes and 12% for Scheduled Castes or 32-14-12) in government jobs and educational institutions.

In the seven months since the last order, recruitment and admissions have stalled. There has been palpable anger directed at the government, especially among the tribal people – a traditional vote bank for the Congress. Some factions of the Sarva Adivasi Samaj were even planning to field their own candidates in the Assembly elections. They say they will still do so if they have to settle for anything less than what the 32-14-12 formula provides for.

Last time, when the Congress won riding on a strong anti-incumbency wave against the 15-year-old BJP government, it almost swept the tribal seats and made deep inroads into the OBC vote bank of the BJP.

Besides filing a Special Leave Petition in the Supreme Court against the High Court order, the government also passed two Amendment Bills that take the total quota in the State to 76%. It has kept the 32% quota intact for STs, increased the quote for OBCs from 14% to 27% and that of SCs from 12% to 13% as well as introduced a 4% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) (32-27-13-4). Both the Bills are, however, awaiting the Governor's assent since last December.

This is where the perception challenge for the Congress begins. Mr. Baghel has made several public appeals to the Governor and even written to the Prime Minister seeking the inclusion of the two Bills in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution so that they are beyond judicial review. But Congress sources privately acknowledge that it was unlikely that the Governor would sign them before the elections. The Congress has accused the BJP of playing backdoor politics using the Raj Bhavan, but it first has to field questions on why the 58% quota was set aside by the High Court in the first place.

A return to the 32-14-12 formula following the Supreme Court order is also not without challenges. If the tribal people's concerns have been addressed by the stay, it would also mean that SCs do not stand to gain that extra 1% that the 32-27-13-4 formula provides for, making it tough for the government to keep them happy. The perception loss for the OBC communities – down to 13 from 27 – will be even bigger as the amendment Bills have created a frenzy that will be difficult to contain.

There are added complexities associated with OBC politics in the State vis-a-vis reservations. A higher quantum of reservations for OBCs would allow Mr. Baghel to consolidate different constituents of the OBC umbrella, such as the Sahus and the Kurmis. But a return to the 58% formula would rob him of the opportunity to bridge the gap between these two major OBC groups who tend to go in opposite directions every election. Also, since there likely won't be any anti-incumbency wave in the Congress' favour, it may also make local factors more pivotal in the OBC-dominated seats. Experts say such a situation will allow the BJP to be selective in its wooing of the OBC communities. There is also a prevailing view within some sections of the tribal people that because of Mr. Baghel's OBC politics, reservation for them has been affected, and bringing a separate Bill for ST reservation would have settled matters much earlier.

Since the EWS quota doesn't place any restrictions on caste, those outside the caste reservation ambit are also feeling aggrieved with a return to the 32-14-12 formula that leaves nothing for the poorer sections of the general castes. While much fewer in number in the population, the upper castes send a significant number of MLAs to the State Assembly and form a pressure group by themselves.

The dragon checks in

China is the world champion in both Open and women's chess, but India is in a superior position in terms of talent

DATA POINT

Srinivasan Ramani & Vignesh Radhakrishnan

China's Ding Liren's victory after a hard-fought game in the World Chess Championship final against Russia's Ian Nepomniachtchi marked a significant moment in chess history. Ding is only the second Asian to win the coveted title after Indian legend Viswanathan Anand, who wore the crown five times. The Super Grandmaster (GM) from China is also the world champion at a time when his compatriot Ju Wenjun holds the Women's World Chess Championship title.

Ding's victory was also made possible by the withdrawal of incumbent World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen from the race. The Norwegian won the title consecutively in 2013, 2014, 2016, 2018 and 2021, and is currently World No. 1 with 2853 ELO rating points. Despite winning the championship, Ding is rated only third, and is 63 points behind from Carlsen. It is rare to see a top-rated player, who was the previous champion, declining to defend his title. U.S. maestro Bobby Fischer was the last to do so in 1975.

Ding joins the list of just 20 other players in history who have secured the title in the World Chess Championship, first conducted in 1886. **Table 1A** shows 17 players having won the classical version of the tourney, which in most instances has featured the incumbent champion facing a challenger. **Table 1B** shows FIDE champions between 1993 and 2006. During this period, there were two tournaments: the "classical" one and the one conducted by a break-away chess association promoted by Russian GM Garry Kasparov and English GM Nigel Short – the original defender-challenger pair in the 1993 championship. The second version was short-lived; it was merged with the "classical" tournament after 2006.

Put together, including Ding, 21 players have won the title with Kasparov, his fellow countryman Anatoly Karpov, and Germany's Emanuel Lasker topping the list with six victories each. As can be seen from Tables 1A and 1B, in the post-war period, starting with Mikhail Botvinnik in 1948 and ending with Vladimir Kramnik in 2006, the World Championship was dominated by former Soviet and Russian players with only Fischer being the exception to the norm.

Anand's first title win in 2007 ended Russia's dominance. Challenges from three other Russians after 2007 – Nepomniachtchi against Carlsen and Ding in 2022 and 2023 respectively, Sergey Karjakin against Carlsen in 2016, and Vladimir Kramnik against Anand in 2008 – were unsuccessful.

While Ding's victory may be the first for male players in China, women from the country have long dominated the game. After Soviet dominance, Chinese women have won most of the Women's World Chess Championships since 1991, as shown in **Table 2**.

China might be at the top of the world in terms of hosting incumbent world champions, but it has fewer GMs and Super GMs compared to India. **Chart 3** shows the rise in the number of GMs over time in China and India. India registered a significant increase in the number of GMs from the early 2010s, surpassing China's tally in 2012. Today, India hosts 80 GMs (recognised by FIDE) as compared to China's 49 (a number that has remained static since 2019 because of the lack of international competition for its players due to COVID-19 restrictions).

Table 4 shows the extent of India's rise in chess. It has the second highest average rating for its Top 10 players, behind the U.S. India has five super GMs (ELO above 2700), a number matched by Russia and surpassed by the U.S. (eight). China has four super GMs. But it is the leader among women, with seven GMs and many WGMs.

Top of the world

China now holds both the men's and women's world titles in chess. While Ding Liren won the title on Monday, Ju Wenjun is set to defend her title in July. Yet, with 49 GMs and 4 super GMs, China lags behind its neighbour India, which has 80 GMs and 5 super GMs. The tables and graphs are based on data collated from ratings.fide.com, 2700chess.com and chess.com

Table 1A | Players who won the classical version of the tourney

World champions	Wins	Nation
Wilhelm Steinitz	4	Austria/U.S.
Emanuel Lasker	**6**	**Germany**
Jose Raul Capablanca	1	Cuba
Alexander Alekhine	4	France
Max Euwe	1	Netherlands
Mikhail Botvinnik	5	U.S.S.R
Vasily Smyslov	1	U.S.S.R
Mikhail Tal	1	U.S.S.R/Latvia
Tigran V. Petrosian	2	U.S.S.R
Boris Spassky	1	U.S.S.R
Bobby Fischer	1	U.S.
Anatoly Karpov	**3**	**U.S.S.R/Russia**
Garry Kasparov	**6**	**U.S.S.R/Russia**
Vladimir Kramnik	3	Russia
Viswanathan Anand	4	India
Magnus Carlsen	5	Norway
Ding Liren	1	China

Table 1B | The FIDE champions in the 1993-2006 period

World champions	Wins	Nation
Anatoly Karpov	**3**	**U.S.S.R/Russia**
Alexander Khalifman	1	Russia
Viswanathan Anand	1	India
Ruslan Ponomariov	1	Ukraine
R Kasimdzhanov	1	Uzbekistan
Veselin Topalov	1	Bulgaria

Table 2 | Chinese women have won most Women's World Championships since 1991. Table lists all women champions

World champions	Nation
Vera Menchik	U.S.S.R
Lyudmila Rudenko	U.S.S.R
Elisaveta Bykova	U.S.S.R
Olga Rubtsova	U.S.S.R
Nona Gaprindashvili	U.S.S.R
Maia Chiburdanidze	U.S.S.R
Xie Jun	China
Susan Polgar	Hungary
Zhu Chen	China
Antoaneta Stefanova	Bulgaria
Xu Yuhua	China
Alexandra Kosteniuk	Russia
Hou Yifan	China
Anna Ushenina	Ukraine
Mariya Muzychuk	Ukraine
Hou Yifan	China
Tan Zhongyi	China
Ju Wenjun	China

Chart 3 | The rise in the number of GMs over time in China and India

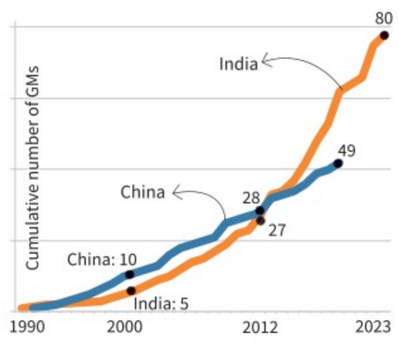

Table 4 | India has the second highest average rating for its Top 10 players, behind the U.S. India has five super GMs (ELO above 2700)

Top ten	Nation	Avg. rating of top 10 active GMs	Total GMs	GMs above 2,700 (active)
1	U.S.	2,728	106	8
2	India	2,691	80	5
3	Russia	2,688	191	5
4	China	2,684	49	4
5	Ukraine	2,659	88	1
6	Azerbaijan	2,649	29	2
7	France	2,642	55	2
8	Armenia	2,634	38	0
9	Spain	2,630	57	1
10	Germany	2,629	96	1

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 2, 1973

Developing nations' complaints deplored

Geneva, May 1: The United States yesterday warned that continued one-sided complaints by the developing world are not likely to serve their cause for economic improvement and better income from trade. "Recriminations and other contentious utterances will not help to create a climate of confident partnership" of rich and poor nations in the quest for development, U.S. delegate Mr. Martin Tank told the U.N. Trade and Development Board. The board is the leading organ of the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations champion of the cause of development and main forum for the third world of poorer countries. "Surely the cause of development is not well served by outrageous politically inspired charges we will not dignify by detailed rebuttal," Mr. Tank explained in the meeting. Mr. Tank criticised a report by the UNCTAD Secretary-General, Mr. Manuel Perez Guerrero, as one-sided and ignoring results actually achieved in the developing world. He referred to the recent high growth of its imports of manufactured goods. Mr. Tank said this and a recent accelerated increase of these countries' real products, admitted even by the UNCTAD Secretariat, did not form a good basis for the continued refrain of failure. He said that Mr. Perez Guerrero's report on complaints about purported western shipping monopoly was "misleading, incomplete (and) makes no reference to increased earnings from shipping by developing countries" themselves. "There is an almost exclusive concentration in showing aid and financial flows from developed to developing countries as GNP (gross national product) percentages which are declining. In fact, total flows have been increasing substantially to $16.5 billions in 1971," Mr. Tank said.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 2, 1923

Ootacamund

Ootacamund, April 30: The hundredth anniversary of the foundation of Queen of the Hill Stations will be celebrated in a Ball at the Assembly Rooms on the 3rd May. The Ootacamund Municipal Council at its next meeting is going to consider a proposal to present a Centenary Address to His Excellency on the Empire Day.

From Page One

SC says it can end wait for consensual divorce

"The judgment does not mean people can rush straight to the Supreme Court for a quick divorce. It means that the Supreme Court, using great care and caution, can invoke Article 142 to deal with certain cases which come to it by way of transfer petitions or appeals in civil or criminal matrimonial disputes," senior advocate K.V. Vishwanathan clarified on the judgment.

Several factors would be considered by the Supreme Court before invoking Article 142 in matrimonial cases.

These include the duration of the marriage, period of litigation, the time they have stayed apart, the nature of the pending cases between the couples, the number of attempts at reconciliation and the court's satisfaction that the mutual agreement to divorce was not under coercion.

On the aspect of invoking Article 142 to grant divorce by mutual consent, Justice Khanna recounted the long process involved under Section 13-B of the Hindu Marriage Act.

First, a couple seeking divorce by mutual consent had to file a joint petition in a local court. In it, they had to claim that they were living separately for a year or more and were unable to live together again. The duo had to then wait for six to 18 months before making a second motion before the same court. This time, they had to confirm their decision to divorce. Following which, the judge would make a formal inquiry before granting them a decree of divorce by mutual consent.

On Monday, Justice Khanna said the "cooling-off period" of six to 18 months was meant as time for couples to introspect. However, he reasoned that in cases in which divorce was inevitable and the marriage was beyond salvage, a six-month or a year-and-half-long wait would only "breed misery and pain, without any gain and benefit".

"The Supreme Court, in view of settlement between the parties, has the discretion to dissolve the marriage by passing a decree of divorce by mutual consent, without being bound by the procedural requirement to move the second motion. This power should be exercised with care and caution... This court can also, in exercise of power under Article 142(1), quash and set aside other proceedings and orders, including criminal proceedings," the Constitution Bench held.

After Bihar, Odisha govt. begins survey of OBCs

People (heads or senior members of the family) have been asked to come to common service centres, PDS centres and Anganwadi centres with their ration cards and Aadhaar cards to fill up an exhaustive questionnaire. There is also a provision for people to fill out the survey forms online.

The heads of the family are to provide information about him and his family members. Personal information such as date of birth, educational status, institution last attended and occupation are being asked. The survey will also collect information about village code, ward code, Aadhaar details, ration card numbers and Socially Economically Backward Class and PAN numbers.

The ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD), in a memorandum to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, had said, "Since legislations of most of the States on reservation policies for the SEBC and the OBC had been struck down by the Supreme Court and the High Courts on the ground that the policies on reservation is made without any scientific data base of the SEBC and OBC population, it is imperative that detail enumeration of SEBC and OBC is to be made by Centre by inserting appropriate columns in the Census Format 2021 for identification of SEBC status of these categories of population."

No formal census since 1931 has included the caste details of the population, resulting in the lack of reliable and authentic data on the SEBC and OBC populations. As the country could not conduct a decadal census in 2021 due to the pandemic, the State has started its own survey.

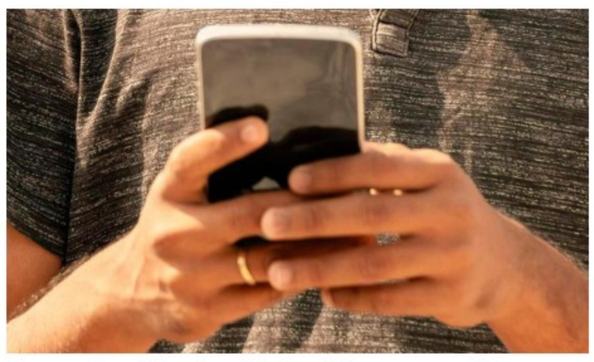
Govt. bans 14 apps in J&K, cites use by terror groups

Most of the applications are communication platforms that allow encrypted messaging; the list of apps was determined after authorities examined mobile phones used by detained operatives

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government has instructed service providers to ban 14 applications in Jammu and Kashmir, following recommendations by the Union Home Ministry, officials said.

Most of these apps are communication platforms that allow encrypted messaging, which, the government said, were used by terror organisations in the region. Officials, including those from the Jammu and Kashmir Police, had initially recommended that the popular messaging platform Snapchat be included among these banned apps, but the Home Ministry and the Electronics and Information Technology Ministry ultimately did not include it. The list of apps was determined after authorities examined phones used by detained operatives, an official said.


Threema, Zangi, Crypviser, BChat and Briar are some of the apps that have been banned in J&K. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Among the banned apps is Threema, a messaging app that requires a paying subscription to use. "We strongly believe in free speech and privacy as a human right and have built our app from the ground up with security and privacy in mind," Julia Weiss, a Threema spokesperson, told *The Hindu*. "Internet censorship is the means of a totalitarian society. We are convinced that Indian citizens do not appreciate this either... We will closely watch the situation and take legal measures if appropriate or needed."

Zangi, another popular private messaging app that does not collect users' phone numbers to let them register, is also banned. Other blocked apps are Crypviser and BChat, which say on their websites that they use blockchain technology to encrypt messages sent by users. Wickr Me is also a messaging app owned by Amazon Web Services that will not be available after 2023. File-sharing service Mediafire is also on the list.

Skipping the Internet

Briar, one of the banned apps, is a peer-to-peer messaging service that uses Bluetooth and other technologies to let users communicate even if they are not connected to the Internet. A similar app, Firefly, was used by protesters in Hong Kong during the pro-democracy protests. Nandbox, which is also blocked, is an app building platform that says on its website that it allows users to build their own messaging app.

"We weren't contacted by the Indian government before the app was blocked and we haven't received a copy of the blocking order," Michael Rogers, one of the founding members of the Briar Project, told *The Hindu*. "The first we knew about this was reading about it in the news."

Mr. Rogers said that the project would be reaching out to "friends at digital rights organisations" to explore options to challenge the blocking order.

Threema also said its representatives didn't receive a notice from authorities on the ban.

WhatsApp provides metadata, such as a user's phone book and call history, upon request from law enforcement authorities in response to legal requests.

Consultations on sedition law are in final stage: Centre

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

In May last year, the court, in an interim order, suspended the use of Section 124A

The government in the Supreme Court on Monday said it had initiated the "process of re-examination" of Section 124A (sedition) of the Indian Penal Code and consultations are in the "final stage".

Appearing before a Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, Attorney-General R. Venkataramani said the government was "very keen". He indicated that a "final shape" may be given to the exercise ahead of the next Parliament session.

The court recorded Mr. Venkataramani's submission that the consultations on the colonial-era law were at a "substantially advanced stage".

It posted the case for hearing next in the second week of August.

In May last year, the court, in an interim order, suspended the use of Section 124A, stalling pending criminal trials and court proceedings under the section across the country. However, in October 2022, the petitioners alleged in the top court that arrests and prosecutions under Section 124A were continuing despite the freeze.

The government on October 31 last year assured the court that it was re-examining the colonial provision and "something may happen" in the then Winter Session of Parliament.

It further told a Bench led by then Chief Justice U.U. Lalit (retired) that no "transgressions", as claimed by the petitioners, had come to its attention.

On April 26, lawyers for petitioners, including senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, advocates Kaleeswaram Raj, P.B. Suresh, Vipin Nair and Prasanna S. urged the court to take up the case and strike down the provision.

Mr. Raj said the May 2022 order had only kept Section 124A in abeyance, the provision required to be struck down immediately rather than occupying space in the statute book indefinitely.

CBI books two suspended NIA officials over extortion

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The CBI has registered a case against suspended NIA Superintendent of Police Vishal Garg and Inspector Mohammed Rajib Khan for allegedly extorting money from three Manipur residents on the threat of implicating them in a case registered against banned terror outfits.

The case has been filed based on the complaint from the NIA, alleging that they had extorted ₹10 lakh from one person, ₹20 lakh from another and ₹30 lakh from the third victim between May and August 2022, when Mr. Garg and Mr. Khan were posted in Imphal.

The Union Home Ministry had earlier suspended Mr. Garg based on the internal inquiry findings. He was suspended along with two others in 2019 for allegedly threatening a businessman. However, he was reinstated in 2020 as no evidence was found.

SC to hear plea filed by murdered IAS officer's widow on May 8

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear a petition filed by the widow of murdered Gopalganj District Magistrate and IAS officer G. Krishnaiah on May 8, challenging a tweak in the Bihar prison law which facilitated the premature release of former Bihar MP and gangster-turned-politician Anand Mohan, who was sentenced to life imprisonment for killing Krishnaiah in 1994.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud fixed the date after an urgent mentioning made by Uma Krishnaiah. Mohan was released from Saharsa prison on April 27. The Bihar Prison Manual was amended on April 10 to allow convicts serving life imprisonment for heinous offences to apply for remission if they had completed 14 years in prison.

Uma Krishnaiah

The amendment also removed the bar on life convicts involved in the murder of a public servant on duty from seeking remission of sentence. No reason whatsoever was given for the amendment which was brought into effect through a State Law Department notification.

The amendment served well for Mohan and 26 others, who successfully applied for remission and got it. "Life imprisonment, when awarded as a substitute for the death penalty, has to be carried out strictly as directed by the Court and would be beyond application of remission," the petition contended.

BSP MP Ansari disqualified from Lok Sabha after being convicted in murder case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Afzal Ansari, BSP MP from Ghazipur in Uttar Pradesh, lost his Lok Sabha seat on Monday after being convicted and sentenced in a case of kidnapping and murder. The Lok Sabha Secretariat issued a notification disqualifying him as an MP after he was convicted and sentenced by a special court on April 29 in connection with the 2005 murder of then MLA from Ghazipur, Krishnanad Rai, along with the kidnapping and murder of Varanasi-based trader Nand Kishore Rungta in 1997.

Afzal Ansari

The Ghazipur MP's brother, criminal-turned politician Mukhtar Ansari, was also sentenced to 10 years in the same case. Both had been booked under the U.P. Gangsters Act.

"Consequent upon his conviction...Afzal Ansari, Member of Lok Sabha representing the Ghazipur Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh, stands disqualified from the membership of Lok Sabha from the date of his conviction i.e. 29 April, 2023 in terms of the provisions of Article 102(1)(e) of the Constitution of India read with Section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951," the Lok Sabha notification said.

According to Section 8(3) of the Representation of the People Act, which guides the disqualification of a legislator, the moment a Member of Parliament is convicted of any offence and sentenced for at least two years, she or he attracts disqualification.

No election for 10 years

Mr. Ansari will not be able to contest elections as his disqualification period is 10 years. However, he can get his disqualification revoked if a superior court stays his conviction and sentencing.

The Election Commission is now free to announce a bypoll to the Ghazipur Lok Sabha seat as there is still over one year left for the dissolution of the 17th Lok Sabha.

Recently, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi lost his Lok Sabha seat of Wayanad after being convicted and sentenced to two years' imprisonment by a local court in Gujarat in a 2019 defamation case. However, the Election Commission refrained from announcing bypolls pending his appeal in a higher court.

SC notice to U.P. govt. on plea of disqualified MLA Abdullah Azam Khan in criminal case

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday sought the stand of the Uttar Pradesh government on a plea by Mohammad Abdullah Azam Khan, son of Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan, against the Allahabad High Court decision refusing to stay his conviction in a 15-year-old criminal case that led to his disqualification as an MLA.

Abdullah Azam Khan

A Bench of Justices Ajay Rastogi and Bela M. Trivedi issued notice to the Uttar Pradesh government and sought its reply. The top court also clarified that the election to Suar assembly constituency, which fell vacant after Khan's disqualification, scheduled for May 10, shall be subject to the outcome of his petition.

"Let the counter be filed. Let the election to be held on May 10 be subject to the outcome of this special leave petition," the Bench said while posting the matter for hearing in second week of July.

During the hearing, the Bench asked Additional Solicitor-General K.M. Nataraj, appearing for the Uttar Pradesh government, "Can we test the morality of an individual, convicted and sentenced? Can he not be an elected representative? If you are able to justify... if it makes him unfit to be a public representative. You have to demonstrate prima facie that he has done a crime in his own capacity."

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Mr. Khan, claimed his client was a juvenile when the incident took place.

The top court clarified it was not examining Khan's juvenility and looking at his prayer seeking stay on conviction.

AAP Gujarat chief booked over tweet on *Mann Ki Baat*

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) Gujarat chief Isudan Gadhvi was booked by the police over his tweet allegedly targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's *Mann Ki Baat* radio show.

On April 28, Mr. Gadhvi allegedly claimed that the Centre had so far spent ₹830 crore of the taxpayers' money on 100 episodes of *Mann Ki Baat* radio programme.

His now-deleted tweet reportedly said, "One episode of Mann Ki Baat costs ₹8.3 crore! Which means that the Centre has spent ₹830 crore on 100 episodes so far. This is too much."

Members of Meitei community to file contempt proceedings against panel

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Some members of the Meitei community in Manipur, which has been seeking Scheduled Tribe (ST) status for decades, have now said that they intend to file contempt proceedings against the Hill Areas Committee (HAC) of the Manipur Assembly, which recently passed a resolution opposing their inclusion.

Weeks after the Manipur High Court ordered the State government to recommend the inclusion of the Meitei community in the Scheduled Tribes list, the HAC, on April 20, passed a resolution opposing the High Court's order and called for the Centre and the State government to appeal it.

> The HAC has no jurisdiction to pass such a resolution without the Speaker's permission and it is contempt
>
> **AJOY PEBAM**
> Lawyer of Meitei community

The HAC was set up through a 1972 order and comprises legislators of all constituencies that fall partly or wholly within the State's hilly areas.

In a resolution passed last month, the HAC said that it was aggrieved by the order of the Manipur High Court, which directed the State government to send the recommendation for inclusion expeditiously.

The resolution, signed by the Chairman of the HAC, Dinganglung Gangmei (BJP), said that the order should be appealed keeping in mind the sentiments, interests and rights of existing Scheduled Tribes of Manipur.

Currently categorised as OBCs or SCs, the Meitei people dominate in more than half the State's Assembly constituencies. A majority of them identify as Hindu, while about 8% are Muslim.

While the High Court order was passed on March 27 and the HAC resolution was passed on April 20, no appeal has yet been filed against the order, said advocate Ajoy Pebam, representing Meitei in the High Court. Mr. Pebam said, "The HAC has no jurisdiction to pass such a resolution without the Speaker's permission and this amounts to criminal contempt. We will be filing to initiate contempt proceedings against HAC soon." He added that not being recognised as STs was resulting in members not being able to settle in hill areas.

The community, through the Scheduled Tribe Demand Committee, Manipur, has been demanding ST status for decades now. They argue they had been listed as one of the tribes of Manipur before it merged with India in 1949 but they lost this tag when the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, was drafted. Claiming that they had been left out of ST list, they had persisted with their demands.

India leads in 'laundering' Russian oil and selling to Europe: report

Price cap coalition countries have increased imports of refined oil products from India, China, Turkey, UAE and Singapore that have become the largest importers of Russian crude, says Finland-based group, thereby circumventing the sanctions

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

India leads five countries named as the "Laundromat" countries that buy Russian oil and sell processed products to European countries, thus side-stepping European sanctions against Russia, says a Finland-based group that cited the latest figures for the first quarter of 2023.

The report, released last week, coincides with the latest data from analytics firm Kpler and a report by international agency Bloomberg that showed how European Union (EU) countries, which are all part of the "price cap coalition" that bars trade and insurance for any oil purchased above a certain price from Russia, are in fact increasing their intake of oil from India, China, Turkey, the UAE and Singapore.

Among the 'laundromat' countries, India remained the highest global consumer of seaborne Russian crude in April. REUTERS

The report also accused Indian sellers and European buyers of possibly "circumventing sanctions" by selling crude products from a refinery in Gujarat that is co-owned by Russian oil company Rosneft.

"Price cap coalition countries have increased imports of refined oil products from countries that have become the largest importers of Russian crude. This is a major loophole that can undermine the impact of the sanctions on Russia," said the report, titled *Laundromat: How the price cap coalition whitewashes Russian oil in third countries,* by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA).

European countries are simply substituting oil products they previously bought directly from Russia, with the same products now "whitewashed" in third countries and bought from them at a premium.

Of the so-called "laundromat" countries, India, which in April remained the highest global consumer of seaborne Russian crude for a fifth month, is ahead of all others in the export of crude products to the coalition countries, exporting nearly 3.8 million tonnes of oil products to price cap coalition countries, which include the EU, G-7 countries, Australia and Japan.

India's exports of diesel, for example, tripled to about 1,60,000 barrels per day in March 2023, compared with the period before the Russian war in Ukraine, making diesel one of the largest components of India-EU trade at present.

The CREA report said the most oil products were being exported from two ports in Gujarat: the Sikka port that services the Reliance-owned Jamnagar refinery, and the Vadinar port that ships oil products from Nayara energies, which is partly owned (49.13%) by Rosneft, alleging that this could constitute "circumventing sanctions" imposed unilaterally by the U.S. and Europe.

"The port is of great value to the Russian oil industry, especially Rosneft," the report said.

"This situation where a Russian company owns an oil refinery in a third country highlights a possible way of circumventing sanctions. Rosneft or other oil companies from Russia are free to transport crude oil to Vadinar, where it is refined and can be exported to the price cap coalition countries as oil products from India," the report concluded, recommending that a "place of origin" certification should accompany oil products sold to Europe.

Neither the Petroleum Ministry nor the External Affairs Ministry responded to a request for a comment on the report, or the categorisation of India as an "oil launderer" for Russia.

Wrestlers get support from more leaders, refuse security cover by police

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh said on Monday that ever since the top wrestlers of the country began protesting, all wrestling-related activities had come to a standstill in the country.

He said that he was ready to be "hanged" but wrestling activities, which include the national championships and camps, should not stop as it would be detrimental to the cadet and junior wrestlers.

Mr. Singh told reporters, "Wrestling activities have come to a standstill in the past four months, I say hang me, but don't stop wrestling activities and don't play with the children's future. Cadet nationals should be allowed to take place, whoever is organising it, either Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, but don't stop the wrestling activities."

As India's top wrestlers, Sakshi Malik, Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia, and others continue to protest demanding action against the WFI chief, who is accused of sexually harassing women, and a minor, they continue to receive support from political parties.

More voices: Navjot Singh Sidhu comes to the support of Bajrang Punia, Sakshi Malik and Vinesh Phogat. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

On Monday, former cricketer and political leader Navjot Singh Sidhu lent his support to the protesting wrestlers. Mr. Sidhu asked why Mr. Singh was not being arrested despite a case being registered against him under the "non-bailable POCSO Act".

Stating that they were among well-wishers, the protesters have refused the security cover provided by the Delhi Police. The Delhi Police had provided two personal security officers to Mr. Punia and one each to Ms. Phogat and Ms. Malik but the wrestlers have declined it.

"If we are not safe at Jantar Mantar with all our supporters, then we cannot be safe anywhere," the wrestlers told the media.

The wrestlers have also refused assent for the Ranking Series event in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, from June 1 to 4.

Setback for Shinde as MVA wins most seats in APMC elections in Maharashtra

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

In a setback to the Shiv Sena-BJP government, the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) in Maharashtra is on track to win most of the seats in the agricultural produce marketing committees (APMCs) elections.

As of Sunday, the MVA comprising the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), the Congress and Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena (UBT) won 76 out of 131 bodies, while the ruling alliance bagged 31 committees. Elections in nearly 225 APMCs were held on April 28.

In the Baramati APMC, the NCP won all 18 seats, Ajit Pawar, Leader of the Opposition, said in the Assembly. In Parli too, the NCP won all 18 seats and in Nanded, the Congress, under former Chief Minister Ashok Chavan, won 13 of 18 seats.

Major turnaround: Congress workers celebrate the party's victory in the APMC elections in Karad on Monday. PTI

In Latur, the Congress, under former Minister Amit Deshmukh, secured a clean sweep. The NCP won the Phaltan APMC in Satara, while Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena group won in Paithan.

In Vidarbha, the BJP suffered a setback under its State president Chandrashekhar Bawankule as it failed to retain the APMC in Kamptee Maudha. Similarly, sitting Ministers of the ruling Sena group Dadasaheb Bhuse and Sanjay Rathod lost in Malegaon in Nashik and Digras in Yavatmal district respectively.

Giving SEBI more time for Adani probe may imply the issue will get buried: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Giving a six-month extension to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to complete its investigation against the Adani Group will send an impression that the probe against the conglomerate is not to pursue the charges but to bury them, the Congress said on Monday.

Last week, market regulator SEBI moved the Supreme Court to seek an extension to complete its investigation against the group.

On March 2, the court asked the SEBI to investigate the matter within two months and also set up a committee to look into the protection of Indian investors.

Jairam Ramesh

Congress general secretary (communications incharge) Jairam Ramesh took to Twitter to reiterate that a Joint Parliamentary Committee probe was needed to fully investigate the Adani issue, but a speedy SEBI investigation was also required to get to the bottom of the allegations.

'Irregularities found'

"SEBI has found many irregularities worthy of investigation in the Adani Mega Scam, and we urge it to pursue each lead to its logical conclusion. But a long six-month extension risks the perception that the investigation is not being vigorously and seriously pursued but is being buried, as happened with at least two previous SEBI investigations into the Adani Group," tweeted Mr. Ramesh.

"India needs a JPC to fully investigate Modani, but it also needs a speedy SEBI investigation to get to the bottom of the very serious allegations," he added.

The SEBI, in its application before the top court, said that it would take six more months to ascertain possible violations related to misrepresentation of financials, circumvention of regulations and/or fraudulent nature of transactions.

Listen to wrestlers' *mann ki baat*: Sibal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day after the 100th episode of the *Mann Ki Baat* radio programme was broadcast, senior lawyer and Rajya Sabha member Kapil Sibal on Monday urged the Prime Minister to visit Jantar Mantar, the site where the wrestlers have been protesting for several days, and listen to their "*mann ki baat*."

Mr. Sibal, a senior advocate who recently represented the wrestlers in the Supreme Court, tweeted, "Congratulations Modi*ji*: For your 100th 'Mann ki Baat.' if you have time Modi*ji* please go to Jantar Mantar and listen to the protesting women wrestlers' 'Mann ki baat.' That will show our Prime Minister is willing to understand their pain."

The wrestlers continue to assert their presence at Jantar Mantar, demanding the arrest of Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

BRS on an arduous quest to find leader with mass appeal in Maharashtra

Abhinay Deshpande
MUMBAI

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), led by Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, is facing difficulties in expanding its footprint in Maharashtra as it is yet to get a leader of mass appeal to steer the party in the already crowded political space of the western State.

The party has held three impressive public meetings – the first rally in Nanded on February 5, another at Kandhar-Loha in Nanded on March 26, and the latest one in Aurangabad on April 24.

It set out to appeal to the farming community with its slogan *Ab Ki Baar, Kisan Sarkar*, but could not make much of an impact as could be seen from the party's performance in the elections to the posts of directors of the Agricultural Produce Market Committee in Nanded district.

Mr. Rao has been looking for a farmers' leader to be the face of his party here. However, several leaders he or his party has approached have turned down the offer.

A few months ago, Mr. Rao met Devappa Anna Shetty, alias Raju Shetty, a popular farmers' rights activist, two-time MP and president of Swabhimani Paksha, the political wing of farmers' outfit Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana, and asked him to be the party's Chief Ministerial candidate in Maharashtra, but he declined the offer "humbly".

K. Chandrashekar Rao

The BRS supremo also tried to rope in Yuvraj Sambhajiraje Chhatrapati, scion of the Kolhapur royal family and descendant of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, for an alliance.

Now, according to sources, the BRS supremo is looking for a farmers' leader from the dominant Maratha community to be the face of his party.

कृषि महाविद्यालय
(श्रीकर्ण नरेन्द्र कृषि विश्वविद्यालय)
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क्रमांक :एफ( )/लेखा/कृ.महा./एफटीआर/2023/19 दिनांक: 25.04.2023

खुली निविदा सूचना

कृषि महाविद्यालय, फतेहपुर–शेखावाटी के फार्म पर खरीफ 2023 की विभिन्न फसलों के बीज उत्पादन, हिस्सा आधारित खेती लगभग 20–24 हैक्टेयर क्षेत्र में करवाने हेतु निविदाएँ दिनांक 09.05.2023 को दोपहर 1.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा प्रपत्र 100/– रूपये केशियर को नगद जमा करवाकर कार्यालय समय प्रातः 10.00 से 5.00 बजे तक प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। अथवा निविदा फार्म श्रीकर्ण नरेन्द्र कृषि विश्वविद्यालय, जोबनेर की वेबसाइट www.sknau.ac.in sppp.rajasthan.gov.in एवं UBN No. SKN2223WSLB00260 से डाउनलोड कर निविदा फार्म का शुल्क राशि रूपये 100/– का डी.डी. लगाकर कर भी कार्यालय में जमा करवाया जा सकता है। सफल निविदादाता को निविदा छुटने के तुरन्त बाद 1000/–प्रतिहैक्टर के हिसाब से अमानत राशि कार्यालय में बैंकर चैक/डी.डी. के द्वारा जमा करवानी होगी। निविदा दिनांक 09.05.2023 को दोपहर 02.00 बजे कमेटी के समक्ष खोली जायेगी। इस निविदा को बिना कारण बताये निरस्त करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता को होगा।

राज.संवाद/सी/23/1626 अधिष्ठाता

Government of Rajasthan
Office of the District Collector and District Magistrate
District-Dausa

F. No. 1147 Dated : 25/04/23

Invited applications under
Young Interns Program (YIP)-2023 for District-Dausa

The Government of Rajasthan is seeking applications from the willing and talented youth for Young Interns program (YIP)-2023. These interns will be provided opportunity to work with the district administration in the implementation of projects of Government of Rajasthan.

The applications will be accepted through hard copy and also through the e-mail. **The applications will be opened from 26-04-2023 (commencing date) and shall close on 02-05-2023 (closing date) at 11:59 P.M.**

The applications form, Eligibility criteria, procedure for selection, stipend and other details are available at the district **website-dausa.rajasthan.gov.in** and also on the websites **www.statistics.rajasthan.gov.in** and **www.yip.rajasthan.gov.in**.

This is purely an internship program and does not provide any type of employment or guarantee for any employment in future.

District Collector and
District Magistrate
Dausa

DIPR/C/6312/2023

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI
OFFICE OF ACE(DR) PR-II THROUGH EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (C)DR-XI
ROOM NO. 303, 3rd FLOOR, VARUNALAYA PHASE-I, JHANDEWALAN, KAROL BAGH NEW DELHI:- 110005 E-Mail : eecdrxi@gmail.com

आज़ादी का अमृत महोत्सव

NIT No. 01 (2023-24) (PRESS NIT)

"STOP CORONA: WEAR MASK, FOLLOW PHYSICAL DISTANCING, MAINTAINING HAND HYGIENE"

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Contract Value (ECV)/ Amount put to tender	EMD (Rs.)	Date of Release of tender on e-Procurement system	Last Date / Time for receipt of tender through e-Procurement system
1	Construction of Decentralized Sewage Treatment Plant and Sewage Pumping Station at Punjab khor, Jat Khor, Auchandi and Qutabgarh along with other associated / allied appurtenant work on Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM) for Ten years Operation & Maintenance and two years Defect Liability Period	PPP / HAM BASIS	1,05,40,000/-	28.04.2023 at 18:55 hours onwards Tender ID: 2023_DJB_240311_1	22.05.2023 upto 15:00 hours

Further details in this regard, can be seen on Delhi Government web-site at **https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in**. Any further corrigendum / addendum / clarfication, if any, will be uploaded on website only.

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 21 (2023-24) Executive Engineer (C) DR-XI

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER,
SUBARNAREKHA & BUDHABALANGA BASIN, AT/PO:- LAXMIPOSI, DIST:-MAYURBHANJ
Mail Id : cebmsbb2019@gmail.com
Government of Odisha "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No.- 03 /23-24 of CEBM, SBB, Laxmiposi

The Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi on behalf of the Governor of Odisha, invites On-line tenders in double cover system for the work "Appointment of Third Party Inspection Agency (TPIA) for Construction of Distribution system for 5180 Ha. of CCA including command area development (CAD) of Basta Distributary from RD 2.007Km to Tail under Subarnarekha Irrigation Project through underground pipe line irrigation system (Gravity Flow) in Mayurbhanj & Balasore district of Odisha on EPC Turn-key basis including Operation & Maintenance of complete commissioned project for five years".

1. Period of completion : 24 (Twenty Four) calendar months Including rainy seasons.
2. Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal : From 10.00 AM of Dt. 01.05.2023 to 20.05.2023 up to 5-00 P.M.
3. Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal : 20.05.2023 up to 05-00 PM
4. Date & time of opening of tender : 22.05.2023 at 11-30 AM
5. Name & address of the officer Inviting Bid. : Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj, Odisha.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal "https://tendersodisha.gov.in" .

Chief Engineer & Basin Manager,
Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi.

A-78: OIPR-32074/11/0004/2324

OFFICE OF THE A.C.E. (P)-4 DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI
ROOM NO. 31, B-BUILDING, JHANDEWALAN, NEW DELHI-110005.
Mob:- 9650094325 E-mail Id:-djbwaterbody@gmail.com

आज़ादी का अमृत महोत्सव

PRESS NIT No. 1/WB-I/2023-24

"STOP CORONA, WEAR FACE MASK, FOLLOW PHYSICAL DISTANCING, MAINTAIN HAND HYGIENE"

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Contract Value (ECV)/ Amount put to tender	Earnest Money (EMD)	Tender Fee	Date of Release of tender in E-Procurement Solution & Tender ID No.	Last Date / Time of receipt of tender E-Procurement Solution
1	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 10 MGD RO Plant at Nilothi.	Item Rate	Rs. 78,00,000/- (Rupees Seventy Eight Lakh Only)	Rs. 1500/-	28.04.2023 Tender Id 2023_DJB_240305_1	27.05.2023 At 03:00 PM
2	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 05 MGD RO Plant at Pappankalan.	Item Rate	Rs. 44,00,000/- (Rupees Forty Four Lakh Only)	Rs. 1500/-	28.04.2023 Tender Id 2023_DJB_240305_2	27.05.2023 At 03:00 PM
3	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 05 MGD RO Plant at Rohini.	Item Rate	Rs. 44,00,000/- (Rupees Forty Four Lakh Only)	Rs. 1500/-	28.04.2023 Tender Id 2023_DJB_240305_3	27.05.2023 At 03:00 PM
4	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 05 MGD RO Plant at Okhla.	Item Rate	Rs. 44,00,000/- (Rupees Forty Four Lakh Only)	Rs. 1500/-	28.04.2023 Tender Id 2023_DJB_240305_4	27.05.2023 At 03:00 PM
5	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 05 MGD RO Plant at Dwarka.	Item Rate	Rs. 44,00,000/- (Rupees Forty Four Lakh Only)	Rs. 1500/-	28.04.2023 Tender Id 2023_DJB_240305_5	27.05.2023 At 03:00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at **https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in**

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 18 (2023-24) EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (WB)-I

INBRIEF

Success of an initiative lies on its impact upon people: Modi

The success of any initiative is measured by its impact upon people, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, responding to a youth from Jammu and Kashmir, who hailed the Yuva Sangam youth exchange programme after visiting Assam and experienced its diversity and culture. Nazakat Choudhary wrote to the Prime Minister on April 5, thanking him for the opportunity to travel to Assam under the Yuva Sangam initiative. In response, the Prime Minister expressed hope that Mr. Choudhary would continue undertaking more journeys in the future. Mr. Choudhary (22) was elated on receiving the Prime Minister's response. PTI

Daily new COVID-19 cases fall to 4,282; positivity rate 4.92%

The number of new COVID-19 cases fell to 4,282 in the 24 hours till 8 a.m. on Monday, the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry said. This is a dip of 1,592 infections from Sunday's figure of 5,874. As many as 7,171 cases were recorded on Saturday. The daily positivity rate now stands at 4.92%, while the weekly positivity rate is at 4%. As many as 6,037 patients recovered from the disease in the 24 hours, increasing the total count of recoveries to 4,43,70,878. The recovery rate of the country is 98.71%. A total of 92.67 crore COVID-19 tests were conducted in the country so far, with 87,038 tests undertaken in the 24 hours, the Health Ministry said. ANI

Rajya Sabha Chairman calls CPI(M) MP over article

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar has called CPI(M) MP John Brittas to discuss an article the latter wrote for a newspaper, critical of Home Minister Amit Shah. In the piece, titled *Perils of Propaganda*, Mr. Brittas accused the Home Minister of making negative remarks against Kerala, adding that this displays a "dislike" for a State where the BJP has "miserably failed in garnering electoral gains through its usual set of divisive tricks and polarising poll strategies". On March 6, the MP got a letter asking him to meet the Vice-President on a complaint by P. Sudheer, general secretary of the BJP's Kerala unit.

India's power consumption at 130.57 billion units in April

The country's power consumption dipped for the second month in a row by 1.1% to 130.57 billion units (bu) in April this year, as widespread rain in the country prompted people to use fewer cooling appliances than during the previous year. In the year-ago period, power consumption stood at 132.02 bu, higher than 117.08 bu in April 2021, according to government data. The consumption was also affected in March this year due to rain in the country. It dipped to 126.82 bu during the month under review from 128.47 bu a year ago. Experts said that had there been no rain in March as well as April, the power consumption would have shown a good growth in the two months. PTI

Japan to train 1,000 Indian engineers for bullet train project

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The technicians require very high degree of skill to lay the tracks.

As many as 1,000 Indian engineers will be trained by Japanese experts before starting work on the high-speed rail track system for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) corridor.

The bullet-train track being built between Mumbai and Ahmedabad will use the ballast-less slab track system (popularly known as J Slab track system) as used in the Japanese Shinkansen high-speed railways.

The Japanese track system is unique in the world and the technicians require a high level of skill to lay it.

"The track is the most important component of the HSR system and needs to be laid with very high degree of accuracy," said a spokesperson of National High Speed Rail Corporation Ltd. (NHSRCL).

There will be 15 different courses covering all aspects of track work.

"Up to 20 Japanese experts will impart intensive training to the Indian engineers, supervisors and technicians and certify their skills. This will also help in 'transfer of technology' of Japanese HSR track system," said Rajendra Prasad, Managing Director, NHSRCL.

The training will be imparted by the JARTS, a non-profit organisation in Japan, nominated by JICA, which is the funding agency of the MAHSR project.

Another batch of 186 Indians back home from Sudan

Total number of Indians brought back home now stands at 2,140, according to official data; 'Operation Kaveri' to evacuate citizens stranded in violence-hit Sudan in progress, says Ministry

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India on Monday brought back home another batch of 186 people under 'Operation Kaveri' that was launched a week ago to evacuate Indians stranded in violence-hit Sudan.

"#OperationKaveri continues to bring Indians back home. Flight carrying 186 passengers touches down in Kochi," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi tweeted.

On Sunday, 229 Indians arrived in Bengaluru, while 365 people reached New Delhi the day before.

Under the evacuation mission, 754 people arrived in India in two batches on Friday.

The total number of Indians who have been brought back home now stands at 2,140, according to official data.

Homecoming: Indian nationals, evacuated from violence-hit Sudan under 'Operation Kaveri', upon their arrival in Kochi on Monday. PTI

The Indians were brought back home from the Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah where India has set up a transit camp for the evacuees. The first batch of 360 evacuees returned to New Delhi by a commercial plane on April 26.

The second batch of 246 Indian evacuees arrived in Mumbai on a C-17 Globemaster aircraft of the Indian Air Force on Thursday.

Under 'Operation Kaveri', India has been taking its citizens on buses from the conflict zones of Khartoum and other troubled areas to Port Sudan from where they are being taken to the Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah on Indian Air Force's heavy-lift transport aircraft and Indian Navy's ships.

From Jeddah, the Indians are being brought back home in either commercial flights or the IAF's aircraft.

Control rooms

India has set up separate control rooms in Jeddah and Port Sudan and the Indian embassy in Khartoum has been coordinating with them, besides being in touch with the External Affairs Ministry's headquarters in New Delhi.

Sudan has been witnessing deadly fighting between the country's Army and a paramilitary group that has reportedly left around 400 people dead.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar had announced the launch of 'Operation Kaveri' on April 24 to evacuate and bring back the stranded Indians from Sudan.

T. S. Sivagnanam

Justice T.S. Sivagnanam is new CJ of Calcutta HC

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Justice T.S. Sivagnanam was, on Monday, appointed the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court.

The Department of Justice in the Union Law Ministry issued a notification announcing the appointment.

The Supreme Court Collegium recommended his name in February this year as the then Chief Justice, Justice Prakash Shrivastava, was to demit office on March 30.

Justice Sivagnanam originally belongs to the Madras High Court.

He was, so far, the senior-most judge after the Chief Justice in the Calcutta High Court.

Inaugural ASEAN-India maritime exercise in South China Sea from today

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Indian naval ships *Satpura* and *Delhi* arrive to participate in the ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise in Singapore on Monday. PTI

In a step further in the expanding India-ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) military cooperation, the maiden ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME) is set to begin on Tuesday, with war games in South China Sea.

The Navy chief, Admiral R. Hari Kumar, is in Singapore for the exercise as well as to take part in the International Maritime Defence Exhibition (IMDEX-23) and International Maritime Security Conference (IMSC) being hosted by Singapore.

In separate developments, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh arrived in the Maldives on a three-day visit, while the Air Force chief, Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari, embarked on a four-day visit to Sri Lanka.

Indian Naval Ships *Satpura* and *Delhi* with Rear Admiral Gurcharan Singh, the Flag Officer Commanding-Eastern Fleet "... arrived at Singapore on May 1 to participate in the inaugural AIME-2023" scheduled from May 2-8, the Navy said in a statement.

"AIME-2023 will provide an opportunity for Indian Navy and ASEAN navies to work together closely and conduct seamless operations in the maritime domain," it added.

The 'Harbour Phase' of the exercise is scheduled to be held at Changi Naval Base from May 2 to 4 and 'Sea Phase' from May 7 to 8 in the South China Sea, the Navy said.

The ships, during their port call at Singapore, will also participate in IMDEX-23 and IMSC, it added.

The inaugural edition of the naval and maritime defence event IMDEX was held in 1997 and has since been expanding year on year. There are about 50 delegations this year, it has been learnt.

Mr. Singh reached Male on a three-day visit, the first by an Indian Defence Minister to the Maldives in 11 years, according to the Indian High Commission.

India and the Maldives are working closely to address shared challenges, including maritime security, terrorism, radicalisation, organised crime and natural disasters, the Ministry said.

If chargesheet is filed on time, no question of default bail: SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday held that an accused is not entitled to seek default bail on the grounds that the chargesheet, though filed within the requisite period, remains "incomplete" for lack of sanction under Section 167 (2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

"We find no merit in the principal argument that a chargesheet filed without sanction is an incomplete chargesheet... Once the chargesheet has been filed within the stipulated time, the question of grant of statutory/default bail does not arise. Whether cognisance has been taken or not taken is not relevant for the purpose of compliance with Section 167. The mere filing of the chargesheet is sufficient," a Bench of Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud and Justice J.B. Pardiwala observed in a judgment.

The top court said obtaining sanction from the competent authorities was not part of the investigation.

According to Section 167 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), an accused will be entitled to default bail if the investigating agency fails to file a chargesheet within 60 days from the date of remand. For certain categories of offences, the stipulated period can be extended to 90 days.

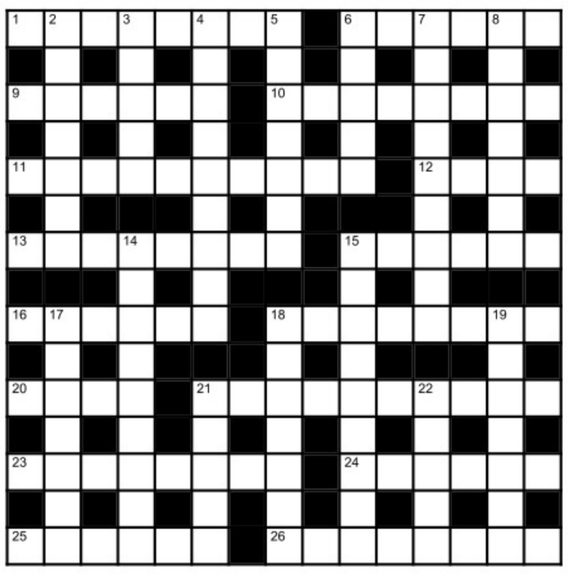
"Therefore, once a final report has been filed, that is the proof of completion of investigation and if the final report is filed within the period of 180 days or 90 days or 60 days from the initial date of remand of the accused concerned, he cannot claim that a right has accrued to him to be released on bail for want of filing of sanction order," the Bench said.

TH CROSSWORD + 13854

(set by Karaoke)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Take arabica, arnica potions heartily to begin with (2,6)
6 Finally, you must breathe air thru mother's womb (6)
9 Can iterating part cover back wall of the eyeball? (6)
10 Mummy and daddy take drug and son cuddles date (4,4)
11 Unusually India hunts for native language (10)
12 Warning - No entry for Ladies! (4)
13 Figure out home bird leaving base for ocean (8)
15 Most inhuman Conservative leaves first (6)
16 Special entrance fee allows right for leisurely walk (6)
18 Upset barber will do this (8)
20 Egyptian goddess' top altered or unaltered? (2,2)
21 Vigilant advice to a ballet dancer maybe (2,4,4)
23 Kid is stuck inside handrail (8)
24 Abrupt aimless shot in messages (6)
25 Wasteland is extremely desolate and sterile, right? (6)
26 Resignation of Bond [New] in progress (8)

Down

2 Ugly mark from terrible mishap (7)
3 Diana maybe a nymph (5)
4 Inedible fungi to get promotions from agency (9)
5 Card game for spinster? (3,4)
6 System of medicine in complete agreement to kill small mouse (5)
7 Stitch by English doctor on passenger having heart block (9)
8 Low-cut garment, top off, take off (7)
14 Rubbish illicit liquor (9)
15 Obstetrician's treatment on short term primarily and most doubtful (9)
17 One who gives evidence in trial gets worried (7)
18 Excursion after nightfall! (3,4)
19 Achilles lost interest in rebellion to defeat decisively (7)
21 Frenzied technocrat leaves crumbling ranch with the group (5)
22 Kid from the bad seed ignored occasionally (5)

SUDOKU

2		5		1	9			
		6	4					2
3					2	9		8
8			1					
	1		8		6		2	
					5			7
9		8	6					1
5					7	6		
			2	4		8		5

No.SS5786 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

L	A	P	L	N	A	V	S	
A	S	Y	O	U	W	E	R	E
M	U	T	G	U	L	C	E	
B	A	R	R	A	G	E	T	O
D	V	N	N	R	T	E		
A	N	E	L	E	D	R	I	P
D	N	N	L	O				
S	T	A	N	D	I	N	G	O
U	T	A	Y	M				
N	A	R	R	O	W	I	N	G
B	E	L	U	R	A	I		
E	N	S	U	R	E	D	I	D
A	I	O	O	T	G	U	A	
M	A	G	I	C	W	E	A	T
S	N	K	N	R	T	E	S	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	9	7	8	3	2	5	1	6
2	1	8	5	6	9	7	3	4
3	5	6	1	7	4	8	9	2
5	2	4	7	9	6	3	8	1
6	8	3	4	5	1	9	2	7
9	7	1	2	8	3	6	4	5
8	6	2	3	4	7	1	5	9
1	3	9	6	2	5	4	7	8
7	4	5	9	1	8	2	6	3

FAITH

Vidura warns of disaster

In a game of dice, Yudhishthira plays against Sakuni and loses one thing after another which he stakes. Vidura hopes to stop the game even at this stage, said Kidambi Narayanan, in a discourse. So he tells Dhritarashtra that there are few in this world who tell us what is good for us.

Vidura has been advising the king and his son Duryodhana for a long time, but to no avail. He asks Dhritarashtra to think calmly about what is happening. If one is calm and composed, one can think clearly. Vidura reassures Dhritarashtra that he has the welfare of the Kauravas in mind, when he warns them. But the game proceeds, and having lost everything he owns, finally Yudhishthira stakes Draupadi and loses her too.

Duryodhana then asks Vidura to go and fetch Draupadi, for he wants her to sweep his palace and be his servant. Vidura points out to Druyodhana what a dangerous path he is taking, Vidura says, "A foolish man may not even be aware of the dangers of tying a rope around his neck and tightening it. But if he does such a thing, he is sure to die. You, Duryodhana, are in a similar position. You are standing on the edge of a deep pit, and you could fall in any minute. You are like a deer hunted by tigers. If you continue to behave in this fashion, the Pandavas, who are like tigers, will hunt you down. You must never anger a ferocious animal like a tiger. There was once a goat, which swallowed a knife that was among the leaves the animal was chewing. The knife was stuck in its throat. The only way to get the knife out was to cut off the goat's head. You are moving to a situation, where the only solution for you will be death, as in the case of the goat."

NEW YORK

Donald Trump requests mistrial in rape accuser Carroll's civil case

AFP

Donald Trump requested a mistrial in a civil case where the writer E. Jean Carroll is accusing him of rape and defamation, claiming that the judge made a series of unfair and prejudicial rulings. Trump's lawyer accused the judge of being biased against the former U.S. President, including in the jury's presence. REUTERS

ISTANBUL

Turkey offers details of IS chief's death, says he set off suicide vest

AFP

Turkey released new details on Monday about its successful operation against the Islamic State's global chief, saying he died by setting off a suicide vest to avoid being detained. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced on Sunday the death of the "suspected leader of Daesh, codename Abu Hussein al-Qurashi". AFP

ASUNCION

Santiago Pena wins Paraguay vote, keeps right-wing party in power

REUTERS

Paraguayans elected a President from the right-wing party in power for nearly eight decades, rejecting a centre-left challenger who had railed against institutional corruption. Former Finance Minister Santiago Pena, 44, took the election with more than 42% of the vote to continue the hegemony of the conservative Colorado Party. AFP

RAMALLAH

Israeli forces kill Palestinian teen in raid on occupied West Bank

REUTERS

Israeli forces killed a Palestinian teenager during a raid in the occupied West Bank, the Palestinian Health Ministry said, as the Army said soldiers fired at "armed suspects". Jibril Mohammed Kamal al-Ladaa, 17, died after being "shot in the head" in the Aqabat Jabr refugee camp near the city of Jericho. AFP

Russia missile attack on Ukraine city injures 34 people, damages homes

Ukraine armed forces chief says 18 cruise missiles were fired by Moscow and 15 of them were intercepted; this follows Friday's launch of more than 20 cruise missiles and two explosive drones at Ukraine; power network infrastructure hit

Associated Press
KYIV

Russia launched its second large salvo of missiles at Ukraine in recent days early on Monday, damaging buildings and wounding at least 34 people in the eastern city of Pavlohrad but failing to hit Kyiv, officials said.

Air raid sirens began blaring across the capital at about 3.45 a.m., followed by the sounds of explosions as missiles were intercepted by Ukrainian defence systems.

Eighteen cruise missiles were fired in total from the Murmansk region and the Caspian region, and 15 of them were intercepted, said Ukrainian Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Valerii Zaluzhnyi.

Tall cost: A woman whose house was hit by a Russian military strike in the town of Pavlohrad in Ukraine on Monday. REUTERS

The head of Kyiv's city administration, Serhii Popko, said all missiles fired at the city were shot down, as well as some drones.

He did not provide further details, but said more information would be available later. The attack follows Friday's launch of more than 20 cruise missiles and two explosive drones at Ukraine, which was the first to target Kyiv in nearly two months.

In that attack, Russian missiles hit an apartment building in Uman, a city about 215 kilometres south of Kyiv, killing 21 people including three children.

Industrial facility hit

In Monday's attack, missiles hit Pavlohrad, in the eastern Dnipropetrovsk region, wounding 34 people, including five children, according to Serhii Lysak, the region's top official. Seven missiles shot at the city and "some were intercepted" but others hit an industrial facility, sparking a fire, and a residential neighborhood where 19 apartment buildings, 25 homes, six schools and five shops were damaged, he said.

Missiles hit three other areas in the region, damaging residential buildings and a school, he said.

Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said Monday that Russia conducted "a group missile strike with long-range precision-guided airborne and seaborne weapons on facilities of Ukraine's defense industry ... all designated facilities were struck."

The attacks also damaged Ukraine's power network infrastructure, which will take several days to repair, according to Energy Minister Herman Haluschenko.

He said that nearly 20,000 people in the city of Kherson and wider region had been left without power, along with an unspecified number of people in the Dnipropetrovsk region, including the city of Dnipro.

Despite truce, Sudan near 'breaking point', says UN

Agence France-Presse
KHARTOUM

Gun battles and explosions again rocked Sudan's capital on Monday despite the latest truce formally agreed between the warring parties as the UN warned the humanitarian crisis had brought the country near its "breaking point".

The chaos and bloodshed, now in their third week, have sparked a mass exodus of tens of thousands of Sudanese to neighbouring countries including Egypt, Chad and Central African Republic.

More than 500 people have been reported killed since fighting erupted on April 15 between Sudan's Army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, who commands the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces.

Plight of war: Sudanese refugees from the Tandelti area who crossed into Chad gather on Sunday for an aid distribution. AFP

Millions of Sudanese around the capital and beyond have sheltered in their homes with dwindling food and water and frequent power cuts, as fighter jets thundering through the sky on bombing raids have drawn heavy anti-aircraft fire.

"Warplanes are flying over southern Khartoum and anti-aircraft guns are firing at them," said one resident, while another witness told AFP he was also hearing "loud gunfire".

Gen. Burhan and Gen. Daglo have agreed to multiple, poorly observed ceasefires and extended the latest by 72 hours late on Sunday, with each side repeatedly blaming the other for the frequent violations.

While foreign nations have evacuated thousands of their citizens by air, road and sea, some 50,000 Sudanese have fled overland to neighbours, said the UN.

Chinese state-owned firm to build port complex in Sri Lanka

Agence France-Presse
COLOMBO

A Chinese state-owned firm said on Monday it plans to take its investment in Sri Lanka to $2 billion by building a major logistics hub.

Sri Lanka is looking to kickstart its economic recovery after defaulting on its foreign debt last year.

The investment by the China Merchants Group in a large logistics complex at Colombo Port, with an estimated construction cost of $392 million, is the first major foreign investment in Sri Lanka since the default.

The logistics centre project will take CMG's "accumulated investment in Sri Lanka to... over 2 billion U.S. dollars".

CMG will have a 70% stake in the company set up to build the logistics complex at Colombo.

Describing the project as South Asia's largest logistics hub, CMG said it expects to complete it by the end of 2025.

CMG also manages the port complex at Hambantota on the southern tip of Sri Lanka.

The pension fallout

Pent-up anger: A protester holds a sign reading "Shocked by burnt plastic but not by our stolen pensions" during a demonstration on May Day (Labour Day) in Lyon, eastern France, more than a month after the government pushed an unpopular pensions reform act through Parliament. At least 108 police officials were wounded and 291 people detained as violence erupted in several cities across France. AFP

UN holds talks on Afghanistan crisis in Qatar without Taliban

Agence France-Presse
DOHA

The Taliban authorities will be absent from the UN-led talks on Afghanistan that open on Monday in Qatar, as a government spokesman rejects linking international engagement with women's rights in the crisis-stricken country.

Envoys from the U.S., China and Russia – as well as major European aid donors and key neighbours such as Pakistan – are among representatives from about 25 countries and groups called for talks by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

Afghanistan's Taliban rulers, however, have not been invited to the meeting which would focus on how to deal with them and press them to ease a ban on women working and girls going to school.

The Taliban government's deputy spokesman, Bilal Karimi, said it "wants positive engagement with the world". But "internal issues" – such as curbs on women's rights – should not factor into decisions about formal recognition, he said.

Uzbekistan President wins referendum to rewrite the Constitution

Stanly Johny
TASHKENT

A vast majority of Uzbekistan's voters voted "Yes" to President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's bid to rewrite the country's Constitution in Sunday's referendum that promised more freedoms to the people of the former Soviet republic and could also see the President extending his rule beyond his current two-term limit.

According to the preliminary results announced by the Election Commission on Monday, 90.21% of voters supported the changes, while 9.35% voted 'No'. The turnout was 84.54%.

As per the country's referendum law, at least 50% of the voters should cast their ballots for a referendum to be considered valid. At 1 p.m. on Sunday, the Election Commission declared the referendum valid as voters turned out in large numbers across the country to "choose their future".

At polling station 517 in the Tashkent Financial Institute, voters of different age groups were seen in small queues at 3 p.m. on Sunday, exercising their rights. The booth had over 2,000 registered voters, whose names were published on a notice board.

Norboyev Uktam, the chief of the polling station, said all arrangements were made to make the voting transparent and free.

"The votes of this booth will be counted here by the officials and then sent to the Central Commision, which will do the final tallying," Mr. Uktam said, explaining the process.

On the day of the referendum, different state agencies held back-to-back briefings at the Election Commission press office in Tashkent, detailing the steps taken to ensure a free and fair vote.

Expected result

But the results were along expected lines as there was no campaign against the proposals made by the President. Uzbekistan has five recognised political parties, including President Mirziyoyev's Uzbekistan Liberal Democratic Party. All of them supported the reforms.

In March, a group of free press advocates issued a statement, noting that critical voices on the social media and in the traditional media are under increasing government pressure. International election observers also raised doubts on the fairness of the referendum process.

Clean slate: The referendum will help Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev serve for two more terms. AP

Observers from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) said in a briefing in Tashkent on Monday that the voting was not truly representative. "Uzbekistan's constitutional referendum was technically well prepared and widely promoted as a move to enhance various rights and freedoms, but it took place in an environment that fell short of genuine political pluralism and competition," the OSCE said.

President Mirziyoyev claims the new Constitution gives emphasis on human rights, freedoms, gender equality, economic growth and prosperity. The new charter would also extend the presidential term to seven years, with a two-term limit.

Mr. Mirziyoyev, a former protege of Soviet-era strongman Islam Karimov who stayed in power for 25 years until his death in 2016, is currently serving his second term which would expire in 2026. The new Constitution would reset his terms so that he can contest again for two more terms (14 years in total).

But many Uzbeks, especially the women and the youth, see the promised changes as a welcome move in a fast-changing country rather than worrying about the President extending his rule.

"What I like about this referendum is that it's giving more power to women. Now any man who practices physical abuse can be prosecuted and even be sentenced for up to 12 years," said Dilfuza Oilmava, who teaches translation studies at Bukhara State University. "This is a big move. This is the first time there's so much talk about women's rights. This will eventually strengthen democracy in Uzbekistan," she added.

Media freedoms

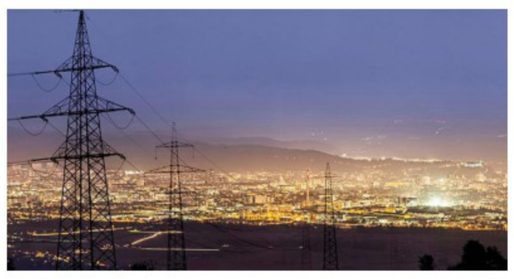
The new Constitution also promises more media freedoms. Under Karimov, Uzbekistan continued the Soviet-era censorship, but Mr. Mirziyoyev has relaxed such controls, though the media is still wary of not crossing the threshold and angering the government.

"I was a journalist in the early 1990s. I have seen what censorship is and how it works. That scene is changing in Uzbekistan. And the new Constitution is promising more freedoms," said Beruniy Alimov, director, New Media Education Center, a Tashkent-based NGO.

"Overall, I am positive about the development, but as a practising journalist, I remain sceptical. Self-censorship by media owners and editors is still prevalent here. Now, a better code is being promised. But we need to see how it's going to be implemented," Mr. Alimov said.

The writer is in Uzbekistan at an invitation from the government

INBRIEF



India's power use dips 1.1% to 130.57 billion units in April

India's power consumption dipped for the second month in a row by 1.1% to 130.57 billion units in April, as widespread rains prompted people to use fewer cooling appliances. Power consumption was also affected in March due to widespread rains. However, experts are hopeful that power consumption and demand would grow from May following further improvement in economic activities as well as an increase in temperature during this summer season. PTI

Jaiprakash Associates defaults on ₹4,161-cr. loans on March 31

Crisis-hit Jaypee Group's flagship firm Jaiprakash Associates Ltd. (JAL) has defaulted on loans of ₹4,161 crore, including principal and interest. "Total borrowing (including interest) is ₹29,396 crore, repayable by 2037, against which only ₹4,161 crore is overdue as on March 31," JAL said in a filing. Recently, JAL and its group firms announced the sale of its balance cement assets to Dalmia Bharat at an enterprise value of ₹5,666 crore as part of its strategy to reduce debt. PTI

KKR to invest $250 million more in Serentica Renewables

Serentica Renewables said leading global investment firm KKR will invest an additional $250 million in the company. In November, KKR had invested $400 million to support the company's efforts to achieve 4,000 MW of installed renewable-energy capacity. "This investment will enable us to further accelerate large-scale decarbonisation of the power-guzzling commercial and industrial segment," said Pratik Agarwal, Director, Serentica Renewables.

Year-end compliances lift April GST revenue to record ₹1.87 lakh crore

Revenue from goods imports declined 4.5% even as domestic transactions yielded 16% more taxes; ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar expects a normalising base and cooling inflation to moderate growth in GST revenue in the coming quarter

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's gross GST revenue hit a record high in April at ₹1,87,035 crore, 12% higher than the same month last year which had clocked the previous highest tax tally of ₹1.67 lakh crore.

GST revenue from domestic transactions carried out during March, including import of services, grew at a sharper 16% pace year-on-year in April, accelerating from the 14% recorded a month earlier.

Scaling new highs

Monthly GST revenue hit an all-time high in April on the back of year-end compliances and official GST audits

- GST revenue from domestic transactions grew at a faster pace than overall revenue growth
- Revenue from goods imports declined, probably suggesting cooling domestic demand
- April 20 marked the highest-ever single-day GST collection, with ₹68,228 crore remitted

While the Finance Ministry did not explicitly disclose the revenue growth attributable to goods imports for April, back-of-the-envelope calculations indicate there was a 4.5% decline from last April – the first contraction in revenue from goods imports in more than a year.

The first three quarters of 2022-23 had recorded more than 25% growth in GST revenue from goods imports. That growth was more tepid in the two months prior to April – 6% in February and 8% in March, indicating cooling domestic demand.

Mahesh Jaising, partner at Deloitte India, said the phenomenal growth in the overall collections was attributable to year-end compliances by taxpayers for 2022-23 along with rising economic activity and the official push for GST audits.

April 20 also marked the highest-ever single-day GST collection, the ministry said, with ₹68,228 crore remitted by taxpayers .

"GST collections have maintained a healthy 11% to 13% growth in recent months, but a normalising base and some cooling of inflation may moderate the pace of expansion slightly in the coming quarter," said ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar.

April PV wholesales rise in double digits on SUVs

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Leading automobile companies reported a double-digit growth in wholesales in April following robust demand for sport utility vehicles (SUVs). However, exports came under pressure on account of adverse global economic situation.

Market leader Maruti Suzuki India Ltd.'s local wholesales rose 12.6% YoY to 1,39,519 units. Exports slid 8% to 16,971 units. Hyundai Motor India Ltd. (HMIL) sales to dealers rose 12.9% to 49,701 units, while overseas shipments shrank 30% to 8,500 units.

"This strong growth has been backed by an overwhelming response to the recently launched all-new Hyundai Verna," said Tarun Garg, COO, HMIL.

Tata Motors Ltd.'s domestic wholesales of 47,007 units in April, rose 13% YoY.

Suzuki Motorcycle's sales rose 23.3% to 88,731 units. Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India said it sold 3,74,747 units, including exports of 36,458 units in April. The company did not provide the figures for the year-earlier period.

PMI signals April manufacturing hit a 4-month high, input costs climbed

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's manufacturing sector saw new orders and output record their strongest growth so far in 2023 during April, as per the survey-based S&P Global India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), which rose to 57.2 from 56.4 in March.

Overall sentiment about prospects a year ahead improved from March's eight-month low, as manufacturers gained confidence that volumes will rise going forward. New orders at producers rose at the quickest pace since December.

After a fractional reduction in the workforce in March, April saw firms seeking to expand capacities by hiring additional workers and stockpiling inputs. However, while overall job creation was "only slight", producers resorted to a record expansion in inventories last month.

Within inputs, raw materials and semi-finished items' stocks surged. "Not only did buying levels expand for the 22nd successive month, but also at a sharp rate that was the strongest since February 2021," S&P Global noted, adding suppliers were able to meet higher demand.

Finished products' stocks, on the other hand, depleted at the fastest pace this year, as demand stayed resilient. Output charges were raised at the sharpest pace in three months – but only 6% of the surveyed firms raised prices, while 92% left prices unchanged from March.

Inflation in input costs accelerated afresh. Cost increases were linked to fuel, metals, transportation and some other raw materials.

"Reflecting a robust and quicker expansion in new orders, production growth took another step forward," said Pollyanna De Lima, economics associate director at S&P Global Market Intelligence. "Companies also benefited from relatively mild price pressures... and improving supply-chain conditions."

JPMorgan to buy First Republic after govt. auction

Reuters

JPMorgan Chase & Co. said on Monday it will buy most of San Francisco-based First Republic Bank after U.S. regulators seized the troubled bank over the weekend, marking the third major U.S. lender to fail in two months.

JPMorgan will make a payment of $10.6 billion to the U.S. Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC) and entered into a loss-share agreement with the FDIC on the single family, residential and commercial loans it bought.

Commercial LPG price cut, refill cheaper by ₹171

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

State-owned oil marketing companies Indian Oil, Hindustan Petroleum and Bharat Petroleum reduced the prices of 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder by more than ₹171, but left prices of domestic refills unchanged.

It was the second consecutive month price was being revised downward, in a sign of softening international product prices. Yet, the two reductions were still not enough to offset the steep, more-than-₹350 increase effected on March 1 in the price of the cylinders meant for use by commercial establishments, primarily eateries, restaurants and tea stalls.

Retail sector to lead hiring of women with STEM qualifications

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The top five industry domains planning to raise their intake of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) qualified women in 2023-24 include retail/e-commerce, healthcare and pharma, IT/ITES, construction and realty and FMCG, NLB Services, an Atlanta-based technology and digital talent solutions provider and NTT DATA, an IT services player said on Monday.

About 62% of employers in India intend to hire more women in STEM fields, with the retail/e-commerce sector expected to see the highest STEM hiring of women at 12%.

The rise of online shopping has increased the demand for technology-driven solutions. This, in turn, has led to an increase in demand for STEM-qualified women, who can design and implement innovative solutions, optimise supply chain management, and enhance data analytics, the two firms found.

Maruti Suzuki India expects chip shortage to ease in Q2

Reuters
BENGALURU

Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. expects some recovery in chip shortages in the second quarter, an executive at the country's top carmaker said on Monday.

The shortage, which affected the company's April production, will continue in the current quarter ended June, the executive said.

"We are expecting some recovery in Q2, although visibility on semiconductor supply remains limited," Shashank Srivastava, senior executive officer, marketing and sales, said. The auto industry has been battling with chip shortages and higher raw material prices since the pandemic.

Trade pact lifts India's FY23 exports to UAE to $31.3 bn

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Exports from India to the UAE have grown by almost 12% in 2022-23 to hit $31.3 billion, more than double the 5.3% growth in India's overall exports, following the implementation of the bilateral trade pact (CEPA) last May, the Commerce Ministry said on Monday.

"During the CEPA Implementation period (May 2022 to March 2023), bilateral trade increased from $67.5 billion a year earlier to $76.9 billion - an annual increase of 14%," Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said.

Sunil Barthwal

While oil continues to dominate trade between the two nations, India's automotive exports to the UAE jumped 42% while imports of aircraft parts from the Emirates surged more than 50-fold – from a mere $39 million in 2021-22 – to almost $2 billion last fiscal.

India's imports from the UAE grew 18.8% to $53.2 billion in 2022-23, faster than the 16.1% increase in its overall import bill.

Slashing tariffs

In terms of utilisation, the CEPA has already surpassed all free trade pacts entered into by India, barring the one with ASEAN, the ministry said, citing the issuance of over 54,100 certificates of origin to traders since its implementation.

Under the CEPA, the UAE eliminated duties on 97.4% of its tariff lines on goods corresponding to 99% of imports from India. India has obtained immediate duty elimination on more than 80% of its tariff lines corresponding to 90% of India's exports in value terms.

India's April coal output hits a record 73 mn tonne

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's coal production hit a record high of 73.02 million tonne (MT) in April, rising 8.67% from a year earlier, the Coal Ministry said on Monday.

The largest coal producer, Coal India Ltd., reported production of 57.57 MT in April, up 7.7% from April 2022. The ministry said it had facilitated the release of additional coal through greater utilisation of mining capacities in captive and privately-operated coal blocks, whose output provisionally rose 17.5% to almost 10 MT in April.

DISTRICT ELECTION OFFICER, BENGALURU DISTRICT
& CHIEF COMMISSIONER, BBMP
N.R. Square, Bengaluru – 560 002.

GENERAL ELECTIONS TO LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY - 2023

Subject: Strict action will be taken against non-attendence of officers / personnel (PRO, APRO & PO) assigned for election duties-reg.

Polling Personnel Deployment:

Date of 2nd level Election Training	4th May 2023 from 9.30 AM
Date of Mustering	9th May 2023 at 9:00 AM
Date of Poll	10th May 2023 from 7.00 AM to 6.00 PM

CAUTION

Failure to report for election training, mustering and election poll duty shall attract cognizable penal action u/s 134 of RP Act 1951 and immediate FIR will be booked against the defaulting official and arrest warrant will be issued to produce official before District Election Officer. Also, disciplinary action will be initiated against such personnel under relevant provisions of service rules.

A Nodal Officer has been appointed from each sponsoring office for the purpose of polling personnel deployment. He shall serve the election duty orders on their staff and ensure their attendance at the training, mustering and poll duty. Any negligence in performing the above said duties shall attract **cognizable penal action u/s 134 of RP Act 1951 and disciplinary action under relevant service rules.**

Polling personnel can download election duty orders from BBMP website
www.bbmp.gov.in

PRO's and APRO's are requested to download PRO HANDBOOK from
https://eci.gov.in

District Election Officer, Bengaluru District &
Chief Commissioner, BBMP, Bengaluru

ADDITION TO THE SQUAD

RCB names Kedar Jadhav as David Willey's replacement

RCB on Monday named Kedar Jadhav as the replacement for David Willey for the remainder of this season's IPL. England all-rounder Willey played four matches for RCB this season and took three wickets. Jadhav has played 93 games and scored 1,196 runs. The right-handed batter was brought on board for ₹1 crore.

IDEAL FIT

Abhishek should continue to bat at the top of the order: Zaheer

Former India pacer Zaheer Khan praised SRH's Abhishek Sharma for his approach at the top of the order, saying the team should stick to opening with him. "He should continue batting at the top even though (Harry) Brook has scored a hundred. IPL is a tournament that you pay heavily if you make mistakes at the top of the order."

HURT

LSG skipper Rahul sustains thigh muscle injury, limps off the field

Lucknow Super Giants captain K.L. Rahul sustained an injury on his right thigh during an IPL match against Royal Challengers Bangalore on Monday. He limped off the field with the help of the team physio and a teammate. Rahul held his thigh before collapsing on the ground. The extent of the injury is yet to be ascertained.

LASTING LEGACY

Every cricketer aspires to be part of MI dressing room: Harbhajan

Harbhajan Singh said the legacy of Mumbai Indians is such that every player wishes to be a part of the franchise and it will be Rohit Sharma's responsibility to revive the team. "MI has had a different legacy. Every cricketer aspires to be a part of this franchise. Rohit has the responsibility to revive this legacy."

Bowlers' day out as Royal Challengers defend low total against Super Giants

Chasing 126, the Lucknow outfit loses the plot after leggie Karn claims the wickets of Pooran and Stoinis; Rahul's injury hampers the home side

IPL-16

M.R. Praveen Chandran
LUCKNOW

Lucknow Super Giants imploded again to continue its miserable home record at the Ekana Cricket stadium here on Monday, losing to Royal Challengers Bangalore by 18 runs chasing a modest total of 126 for nine.

Super Giants was hampered by captain K.L. Rahul's thigh injury which he suffered in the second over of the RCB innings. When Rahul came out to bat, his side needed 24 off eight balls. Poor shot selection and lack of application by the batters hurt Super Giants as they slid to their third consecutive defeat at home.

Mohammed Siraj gave RCB an early breakthrough when he sent back danger-man Kyle Mayers for a duck, miscuing a shot to Anuj Rawat at mid-on. Krunal Pandya, after clattering Siraj for three successive fours, chipped Glenn Maxwell to Virat Kohli at long-off.

Josh Hazlewood, playing his first match of the season, tied Ayush Badoni in knots before forcing him to drive straight to Kohli at cover. Wanindu Hasaranga foxed Deepak Hooda and had him stumped by Dinesh Karthik.

Much depended on Nicholas Pooran but the West Indian holed out to Mahipal Lomor off Karn Sharma to leave Super Giants tottering at 38 for five. Marcus Stoinis and K. Gowtham staged a mini-revival, adding 27 for the sixth wicket, before Karn lured the Australian to his doom. It was all but sealed when Gowtham ran himself out.

Earlier, the Super Giants bowlers thrived on the sluggish wicket. The four spinners delivered 13 out of the 20 overs. Ravi Bishnoi (4-0-21-2) was the stand-out bowler while the other leggie, Amit Mishra (3-0-21-2), and off-spinner Gowtham (2-0-10-1) played the support role well. Though he didn't pick up any wicket, left-arm spinner Krunal Pandya (4-0-21-0) shuffled his bowlers around and did a good job as captain after Rahul hobbled off the field.

RCB's openers Kohli (31) and du Plessis (44) struggled with their timing as only 42 came in the Power-Play. It was tough going for the batters, but the bowlers won the day for the Bengaluru side.

Calling the shots: Hooda is stumped by Karthik off Hasaranga on a night when skipper du Plessis and Kohli had a lot to cherish. AFP & PTI

SCOREBOARD

ROYAL CHALLENGERS

Virat Kohli st. Pooran b Bishnoi 31 *(30b, 3x4)*, Faf du Plessis c Krunal b Mishra 44 *(40b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Anuj Rawat c Mayers b Gowtham 9 *(11b)*, Glenn Maxwell lbw b Bishnoi 4 *(5b)*, Suyash Prabhudessai c Gowtham b Mishra 6 *(7b)*, Dinesh Karthik run out 16 *(11b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Mahipal Lomror lbw b Naveen 3 *(4b)*, Wanindu Hasaranga (not out) 8 *(7b, 1x4)*, Karn Sharma c Gowtham b Naveen 2 *(2b)*, Mohammed Siraj c Pooran b Naveen 0 *(1b)*, Josh Hazlewood (not out) 1 *(2b)*; Extras (w-2): 2; Total (for nine wkts. in 20 overs): 126.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-62 (Kohli, 8.6 overs), 2-75 (Rawat, 11.4), 3-80 (Maxwell, 12.4), 4-90 (Prabhudessai, 14.3), 5-109 (du Plessis, 16.5), 6-114 (Lomror, 17.5), 7-117 (Karthik, 18.4), 8-121 (Karn, 19.2), 9-121 (Siraj, 19.3).

SUPER GIANTS BOWLING

Krunal 4-0-21-0, Stoinis 1-0-11-0, Naveen 4-0-30-3, Bishnoi 4-0-21-2, Mishra 3-0-21-2, Yash Thakur 2-0-12-0, Gowtham 2-0-10-1.

LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS

Kyle Mayers c Rawat b Siraj 0 *(2b)*, Ayush Badoni **(Impact Player in place of Yash)** c Kohli b Hazlewood 4 *(11b)*, Krunal Pandya c Kohli b Maxwell 14 *(11b, 3x4)*, Deepak Hooda st. Karthik b Hasaranga 1 *(2b)*, Marcus Stoinis c Prabhudessai b Karn 13 *(19b, 1x6)*, Nicholas Pooran c Lomror b Karn 9 *(7b, 1x6)*, K. Gowtham run out 23 *(13b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Ravi Bishnoi run out 5 *(10b)*, Amit Mishra c Karthik b Harshal 19 *(30b, 2x4)*, Naveen-ul-Haq c Karthik b Hazlewood 13 *(13b, 2x4)*, K.L. Rahul (not out) 0 *(3b)*; Extras (b-1, lb-1, w-3, nb-2): 7; Total (in 19.5 overs): 108.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-0 (Mayers, 0.2), 2-19 (Krunal, 3.3), 3-21 (Badoni, 4.1), 4-27 (Hooda, 5.1), 5-38 (Pooran, 6.6), 6-65 (Stoinis, 10.4), 7-66 (Gowtham, 11.1), 8-77 (Bishnoi, 14.4), 9-103 (Naveen, 18.4).

RCB BOWLING

Siraj 3-0-24-1, Hazlewood 3-0-15-2, Maxwell 1-0-3-1, Hasaranga 4-0-20-1, Karn 4-0-20-2, Harshal **(Impact Player in place of Rawat)** 3.5-0-20-1, Lomror 1-0-4-0.

Toss: RCB.
PoM: du Plessis.
RCB won by 18 runs.

Next assignment

LSG: May 3 **vs. CSK**
Lucknow, 3.30 p.m.

RCB: May 6 **vs. DC**
Delhi, 7.30 p.m.

Tweak sets Rahane's stock soaring

Free the elbow! The trademark long armguard that is stapled with almost all Rahane memories is not to be seen. AFP

Lalith Kalidas
CHENNAI

Ajinkya Rahane has been the toast of the comeback club in IPL-16.

Just over two weeks into his maiden stint with Chennai Super Kings, the right-hander has shaken up the T20 batting manuals with an exemplary array of old-school stroke-making, and a pinch of the shortest format's ramps and scoops.

The IPL offered Rahane the spotlight and the veteran unfurled his combative range without detracting from his core principles.

He has also taken off some extra inches of padding while batting in the middle. The trademark long armguard, one that is stapled with almost all Rahane memories, is suddenly not to be seen. He has instead used shorter padding, freeing up the elbow.

What prompted Rahane to dump a habit that has been an untenable element in his gear? Has it worked in his revival? Well, it did at least for Rahane's Mumbai and India senior, Sachin Tendulkar, two decades ago. In 2019, Tendulkar spoke about an incident from 2001 when a hotel security person offered input on his armguard which impeded his bat swing.

For a batter, who has a compact stance and range through the off-side and the 'V' with a controlled bat swing like Tendulkar, Rahane may have encountered a similar deterrent.

It seems Rahane stopped using the long guard at the start of the 2022-23 domestic season in the Duleep Trophy and the Ranji Trophy. While it may not be the sole contributing factor to his revival, Rahane has unleashed his repertoire of strokes against the pacers on the on-side this IPL season without the longer elbow guard.

A lighter top hand may have helped Rahane regain his silken smooth touch, especially while attempting his favourite hooks and flicks.

Jaiswal focused and driven: Sangakkara

Shayan Acharya
MUMBAI

Yashasvi Jaiswal has been one of the consistent performers on the domestic circuit. The Mumbai youngster hammered two First Class double centuries last season and followed it up with three hundred-plus scores.

The 21-year-old has carried that form into the IPL for Rajasthan Royals. While he scored three half-centuries early on, Jaiswal hammered a 62-ball-124 – his maiden IPL century – on Sunday against Mumbai Indians.

Having made his IPL debut for RR in 2020, Jaiswal has matured as a cricketer and expectations on him are high. The fraternity expects him to break into Team India soon.

Kumar Sangakkara, Royals' director of cricket, believes that Jaiswal will go a long way on the international stage. "He is not just extremely talented but really hard-working. He spends a lot of time in preparation, in the nets, working on his game. He is very focused and driven and the results are showing," Sangakkara said.

"It's about playing good cricketing shots, trusting his ability, reading the game and situation really well and when he does get the start, to try and maximise it, (and) to keep the intent going throughout the innings," the Sri Lankan added.

Jaiswal... a remarkable run. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Titans look to continue celebrations, Capitals to get back to winning ways

Amol Karhadkar
AHMEDABAD

The unseasonal rain over the last couple of days has brought a cool breeze to mark the Gujarat Day celebrations. But, neither Gujarat Titans nor Delhi Capitals will be hoping for a downpour to mar their Indian Premier League clash at the Narendra Modi Stadium.

Titans will want its supporters to carry over Monday's State foundation day celebrations, while Capitals will be eager to get back to winning ways, with time running out.

Having lost six of eight matches, the Australian captain-coach combo – David Warner-Ricky Ponting – realises that Capitals are in must-win territory now.

Capitals' Indian batters, barring Axar Patel, need to step up. Prithvi Shaw, Manish Pandey, Sarfaraz Khan, Yash Dhull, Aman Khan, Ripal Patel, Abhishek Porel and Priyam Garg have all been tried out with little success.

As a result, Phil Salt has been asked to open, thus resulting in finisher Rovman Powell missing out.

Capitals will be hoping for Salt, Warner and Mitchell Marsh – its top three – to wave a magic wand against an on-song bowling attack.

Mohit Sharma's inclusion has made the Titans' bowling arsenal even more potent. Despite captain Hardik Pandya and David Miller not having hit top gear and Rahul Tewatia hardly required with the willow, the Titans are en route to defending their crown.

But as Delhi Capitals assistant coach Pravin Amre stressed: "cricket is a funny game".

For the fun to begin though, the dark clouds will have to stay away, just like they did on Monday evening.

Need to step up: Porel brushes up his skills as Delhi Capitals prepares to take on Gujarat Titans. VIJAY SONEJI

Today's match

GUJARAT TITANS vs. DELHI CAPITALS

Ahmedabad, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 2
GT 2 | DC 0

PREVIOUS MEETING
GT won by **six wickets**, 2023

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIO CINEMA APP

We have been clinical and ruthless: Gill

Amol Karhadkar
AHMEDABAD

Being the only team with six wins after 42 of the 70 league games in the Indian Premier League's 16th edition, some may feel Gujarat Titans is peaking too soon. But the team doesn't see it that way.

In fact, Shubman Gill – its highest run-getter with 333 runs at a strike rate of 142 – believes the team has been "clinical and ruthless" as in the last season.

"I don't think we are peaking at the wrong time. Because the second half of the tournament is called the business-end of the tournament, we are playing our best cricket right now," Gill said. "If you have seen our last two matches, the way we have performed, with the bat and with the ball, it's been clinical and ruthless."

Points Table

	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
Gujarat Titans	8	6	2	12	0.638
Rajasthan Royals	9	5	4	10	0.800
Lucknow Super Giants	9	5	4	10	0.639
Chennai Super Kings	9	5	4	10	0.329
Royal Challengers Bangalore	9	5	4	10	-0.030
Punjab Kings	9	5	4	10	-0.447
Mumbai Indians	8	4	4	8	-0.502
Kolkata Knight Riders	9	3	6	6	-0.147
Sunrisers Hyderabad	8	3	5	6	-0.577
Delhi Capitals	8	2	6	4	-0.898

After the LSG-RCB match on May 1

INBRIEF

Sreeshankar opens international season with gold in US meet

Commonwealth Games long jump silver medallist M. Sreeshankar opened his international season with an easy gold in the MVA High Performance athletics meet in Chula Vista, California, on Sunday. His opening jump, a wind-assisted (+3.1) 8.29m, was enough to help him win the title. He had four jumps above 8m, including an 8.15 in his last effort, but three of them came with wind assistance. China's Weidong Ma (7.99m) and Huang Huafeng (7.61) finished second and third.

Double points for Kush, heartbreak for Jehan in Baku

Kush Maini continued his impressive run in his rookie Formula 2 season with a double points finish while fellow Indian Jehan Daruvala drew a blank following his collision in the Sprint Race in Baku, Azerbaijan, on Sunday. Staying out of trouble in the Sprint Race, Maini benefitted from the dramatic final restart to find himself fourth by the chequered flag. In the Feature Race, he made up nine places for fifth and held his nerve throughout a tense duel with Dennis Hauger. Jehan finished 14th in the Feature Race after getting a 10 second penalty for an unsafe rejoin. Kush is in fifth place in the overall standings.

Selby hits first maximum 147 break in a World snooker final

Mark Selby became the first player to compile a maximum 147 break in a snooker World Championship final when he achieved the feat against Luca Brecel at Sheffield on Sunday. The four-time world champion's break, in the 16th frame, came on the 40th anniversary of Cliff Thorburn's landmark first maximum in any Crucible encounter. Brecel was ahead 9-8 in a best of 35 contest at the end of play on Sunday.

Pujara, Smith to share Sussex dressing room ahead of WTC

Cheteshwar Pujara will get a sneak peek into Steve Smith's preparations ahead of the WTC final starting on June 7 as the Australian gears up to play three English county games for Sussex in May. "We have spoken, but most of the time we have played against each other. It will be exciting to have him in the same side," Pujara said.

Vivekananda gets the better of Ambedkar

Vivekananda FC defeated Ambedkar FC 2-1 in the BDFA 'C' division football league in Bengaluru on Monday. In another match, Veterans FC thrashed Dharma Raja Union FC 10-0.

RXCA beats Just Cricket Academy
RXCA took out Just Cricket Academy in the Tiger Cup under-14 tournament .

The scores:
Six CA 145 in 29.3 overs (Rafa Poonacha 38, S. Rajat 3/30) bt Kapil CC 85 in 26.1 overs (V. Nishanth 35, Prayag 4/18).
RXCA 188/7 in 30 overs (Siddharth Sarda 47, Sahasra 31) bt Just Cricket Academy 164 in 29.3 overs (Vikram 67, Chayank Kumar 26, Advaya Deshkar 3/27, Abhav Bhatia 3/29).

Easy for Bangalore Blues HC
Bangalore Blues HC defeated East India HC 4-1 in the 92nd Travancore Cup hockey tournament.

The results: Bangalore Blues HC 4 (Vishal 11, 41, G. Rama 13, Tanu 26) bt East India HC 1 (C. Hari 45); Greater Chennai Police 3 (Daravind Rajan 26, G. Kantha 34, M. Saravanan 38) bt Rising Star HC 1 (Dhanush 49).

LIVE TELECAST

ATP Madrid Open: Sony LIV, 2.30 p.m. onwards

IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.

Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 12.15 a.m. (Wednesday)

Premier League: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

'Our target is to break into top four and not be content being in top 16'

Satwiksairaj says Chirag and he are now mentally much stronger and are no longer in a hurry to finish off the games

BADMINTON

V.V. Subrahmanyam
HYDERABAD

What a feeling! Satwiksairaj and Chirag give vent to their emotions after their remarkable, come-from-behind triumph on Sunday. PTI

For injury-hit R. Satwiksairaj, it has never been easy to stage comebacks given the kind of mental and physical challenges he has had to face.

But, the gifted shuttler believes in one mantra – good tidings are waiting for him despite the bad phases.

"I have always believed in God, especially during those testing times. Fortunately, this Badminton Asia Championships doubles gold (with Chirag Shetty), after coming back from an injury, is special and unforgettable," Satwik told *The Hindu* in a chat from Dubai even as the feeling of being newly-crowned champions hadn't yet sunk in.

Fatigue factor

"Definitely, the fatigue factor is a huge one as we have to keep playing tournaments given this being the Olympics qualification year," said Satwik. "We don't feel that we are in the safe zone as far as Olympic qualification is concerned. Our target is to break into the top four and not be content being in the top 16."

"But, thanks to the continuous support of our doubles coach, Mathias Boe, we now understand better how to respect the body and the mind. This is something we feel is very important to keep winning major titles," the doubles specialist said. "We are grateful to the entire support staff, including the physios," he added.

"Given the nature of our game, more so for me since I play the attacking game with all those jumps, we have realised the importance of recovery," Satwik explained.

What is the big change in the game now? "We are both mentally much stronger and are no longer in a hurry to finish off the games. Like our coach Boe used to play, we don't concede easy points and are mastering the art of picking points at critical moments to stay in the contest," the 22-year-old Satwik said.

"I would certainly rate the Asian Championship doubles gold in the top three, with the Thomas Cup being the best for obvious reasons, The next big targets are to win medals in the Sudirman Cup and the Asian Games. We want to keep the momentum going in the run-up to the 2024 Paris Olympics", mused a delighted Satwik before signing off.

> I would certainly rate the Asian Championship doubles gold in the top three, with the Thomas Cup being the best

Holding her own: Aditi was satisfied with her show in a competition she called 'deep'. AFP

Aditi makes it to playoffs, finishes T2

LA CHAMPIONSHIP

Press Trust of India
LOS ANGELES

Indian golfer Aditi Ashok came tantalisingly close to her maiden LPGA win before losing in a three-way playoff at the JM Eagle LA Championship here.

The 25-year-old carded a four-under 67 in the final round to earn a place in the playoff with Hannah Green (69) and Xiyu Lin (67).

But she couldn't go the distance, registering a Tied second finish, her best result on the world's biggest ladies Tour.

Though disappointed, she took positives from the second place at the Wilshire Country Club.

"I think overall it's a good week. I've never played in this position on the LPGA, to be near the lead on the first day and stay there the whole tournament," she said.

"The competition is just so deep out here. Ten people have a good tournament but only one can win. I'm happy with the way I played."

Jota seals a thriller for Liverpool after Tottenham's fightback

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
LIVERPOOL

Liverpool kept alive its slender hopes of finishing in the Premier League's top four as Diogo Jota's stoppage-time strike ruined Tottenham's comeback from three goals down in a thrilling 4-3 victory on Sunday.

Jota blasted his dramatic winner just moments after Richarlison had headed Tottenham level in stoppage-time at Anfield.

Curtis Jones put Liverpool ahead and Luis Diaz, starting for the first time since October, netted the host's second goal in the opening five minutes at Anfield.

Mohamed Salah's penalty extended Liverpool's dominant start before Harry Kane reduced the deficit with his 208th Premier League goal. Kane's strike was followed by late goals from Son Heung-min and Richarlison in an astonishing finale that climaxed with Jota's winner.

Liverpool is unbeaten in its last six games and has won four in a row to climb to fifth place. Sixth placed Tottenham is without a win in four games and sits nine points adrift of the top four with four matches left.

The clincher: Jota fires in Liverpool's fourth goal in injury time that helped the Reds pip Spurs. GETTY IMAGES

Bayern Munich moved top of the Bundesliga and ahead of Borussia Dortmund on Sunday as second-half goals from Serge Gnabry and Kingsley Coman gave the champion a 2-0 home win over rock-bottom Hertha Berlin.

Atletico Madrid moved back within two points of second-placed Real Madrid in LaLiga after surviving a Real Valladolid comeback in a 5-2 victory on Sunday.

The results: Premier League: Liverpool 4 (Jones 3, Diaz 5, Salah 15-pen, Jota 90+4) bt Tottenham 3 (Kane 40, Son 77, Richarlison 90+2).

Serie A: Bologna 1 (Orsolini 10) lost to Juventus 1 (Milik 61); Fiorentina 5 (Castrovilli 45+2, Dodo 62, Duncan 66, Kouame 76, Terzic 88) bt Sampdoria 0; Sassuolo 2 (Berardi 82, 90+6-pen) bt Empoli 1 (Cambiaghi 11).

LaLiga: Cadiz 2 (Escalante 39, Guardiola 46) bt Valencia 1 (Lino 51); Villarreal 3 (Jackson 2, 12, Terrats 70) bt Celta Vigo 1 (Larsen 29); Espanyol 1 (Joselu 38-pen) bt Getafe 0; Real Valladolid 2 (Larin 42-pen, Escudero 74) lost to Atletico Madrid 5 (Molina 20, Gimenez 24, Morata 38, Fernandez 86-og, Depay 90+3)

Bundesliga: Bayern Munich 2 (Gnabry 69, Coman 79) bt Hertha Berlin 0; Wolfsburg 3 (Wind 5, 28, Bornauw 13) bt Mainz 0.

Hussamuddin advances; Varinder exits

BOXING WORLDS

Sports Bureau

Double Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Mohammad Hussamuddin (57kg) recorded a convincing win to advance to the second round, while three-time National champion Varinder Singh (60kg) experienced an early exit on the opening day of the World boxing championships in Tashkent on Monday.

The 29-year-old Hussamuddin, also an Asian bronze medallist, got past 19-year-old Alen Rustemovski of North Macedonia 5-0. Hussamuddin will meet Chinese Ping Lyu in the next round.

Varinder was beaten 0-5 by Uzbekistan's Mujibillo Tursunov in an opening round bout.

Varinder, who was battered by the Uzbek's powerful punches in the first three minutes, received a cut over his right eye.

Sharuk sets new mark in men's 3000m steeplechase

ATHLETICS

Sports Bureau

Sharuk Khan of Uttar Pradesh created a meet record in the men's 3000m steeplechase event in a time of 9:05.42s, overtaking the mark set by Atul Gamit (9:14.06) in the 21st National junior (u-20) Federation Cup athletics in Tiruvannamalai on Sunday.

The results (winners only):

Sunday: Men: 400mH: Gaurav (Har) 52.46; **800m:** Shakeel (Raj) 1:50.24s (Asian junior qualifying mark: 1:54.55); **3000m:** Deepak (Har) 8:28.57; **3000m steeplechase:** Sharuk Khan (UP) 9:05.42s (MR; Old: Atul Gamit 9:13.06 & Asian junior qualifying mark: 9:10.00s); **high jump:** Aniket Mane (Mah) 2.10m (Asian junior qualifying mark: 2.10m); **hammer throw:** Harshit Kumar (UP) 62.03m; **javelin throw:** Shivam Lokakare (Mah) 73.82m (Asian junior Qualifying mark: 65.36m).

Women: 200m: Nayana Kokare (Kar) 24.28s; **800m:** Asha Kiran Barla (Jhr) 2:07.51s; **400mH:** Anushka Dattatray Kumbhar (Mah) 1:00.36s (MR, Old: Simmy Nadiad 1:00.72).

1000m: Indu (Har) 52:07.31s; **3000m:** Bushra Khan Gauri (MP) 9:35.21s (MR, Old: Drashtiben Chaudhari 9:39.88 & Asian junior qualifying mark: 9:38.50s); **3000m steeplechase:** Sonam (Del) 10:55.53s; **triple jump:** A. Abhinaya Sri (TN) 12.41m; **high jump:** Shravani Ramachandra (Mah) 1.61m; **javelin:** Disha Nelwade (Kar) 36.99m.

Saturday: Men: 100m: Dondapatty Mruty Jayaram (Odi) 10.55s; **110mH:** Nayan Pradip Sarde (Mah) 14.18s; **400m:** C.H. Rihan (Kar) 47.86s; **10,000m race walk:** Bilin George Anto (Ker) 44:27.86s; **1500m:** Mehedi Hassan (Asm) 3:49.73s (Asian junior qualifying mark: 3:49.75); **pole vault:** Dev Meena (MP) 5.00m (MR, Old: A.K. Siddharth 4.80m & Asian junior qualifying mark: 4.90m); **long jump:** Rajat (UP) 7.49m (Asian junior qualifying mark: 7.46); **discus throw:** Bhartpreet Singh (Pun) 56.18m (Asian junior qualifying mark: 55.00); **decathlon:** Sunil Kumar (Har) (3192 pts).

Women: 100m: S. Akshaya (TN) 12.05s; **400m:** Anushka Dattatry Kumbhar (Mah) 55.07s; **100mH:** Unnath Aiyappa Bolland (Kar) 14.17s.

Long jump: Susmita (Raj) 6.21m; **discus throw:** Arshdeep Kaur Khangura (Pun) 45.35m.

Saina to skip trials for the Asian Games

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Two-time Commonwealth Games champion Saina Nehwal will not be participating at the national badminton selections trials for the upcoming Asian Games due to fitness issues.

The Badminton Association of India (BAI) will be conducting the trial from May 4 to 7 at Jwala Gutta Academy of Excellence in Telangana to pick the team for the prestigious tournament, which be held in Hangzhou, China from September 23 to October 8.

"Saina Nehwal will not be participating as she has some fitness issues. Also the men's pair of Kushal Raj and Prakash Raj has also withdrawn from the trials," BAI secretary Sanjay Mishra said.

"However, rest of the players who were invited for the trials will be competing this week for the spots."

Saina last played at the Orleans Masters. Battling injuries for quite some time, she had skipped the trials for Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships in January. She had also missed the trials for the CWG last year.

India wins gold in girls' medley relay

Sports Bureau

After winning the girls' 400m gold earlier, Rezoana Mallick Heena claimed the 200m silver and helped India take the medley relay gold in the fifth Asian under-18 athletics championships which concluded in Tashkent on Sunday.

The results (Indian medal performances only):
Boys: 200m: 3 Abhay Singh (21.39s). **400m hurdles:** 2. Bapi Hansda (51.38s).
2,000m steeplechase: 2. Sumit Rathee (5:58.69s).
Discus: 2. Ritik (54.03m).
Medley relay: 2. India (1:52.96s).
Girls: 200m: 2. Rezoana Mallick Heena (24.38s).
Shot put: 3. Anupriya Valliyot Sasi (16.37m).
Heptathlon: 2. Mohur Mukherjee (4862 pts).
Medley relay: 1. India (Mohur Mukherjee, Abinaya Rataratan, Shireen Ahluwalia, Rezoana Maluck Heena) 2:11.21s.